THE Valley INDEPENDENT
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Sweed drops

Mike Tomlin has lost faith in Limas Sweed, whose short career has been marred by dropped balls. **1B**

Continuing Pride

Commitment to quality and exceptional service runs four generations deep at Santori Kitchen & Bath. **2C**

Jury mulls Szakal's fate

If convicted in the murders of a Carroll Township couple, he could face the death penalty.

By CHRIS BUCKLEY
For The Valley Independent
cbuckley@tribweb.com

After less than an hour of deliberation at the end of a long day, the jury in Gerald Szakal's murder case asked Washington County Judge Debbie O'Dell Seneca for permission to call it a night.

She granted the request and the panel was expected to resume deliberation this morning.

Szakal is accused of gunning down Howard and Nancy Springer in their 1241 Highland Road home in Carroll Township and robbing them of more than $6,800.

The eight-man, four-woman jury also asked for direction on the elements required for first-, second- and third-degree murder convictions.

The judge said she would review that part of the instructions she previously provided to the jurors but denied a request to place it in writing. The instructions consumed two hours Tuesday on a day that began with closing arguments.

Defense attorney Noah Geary reiterated his opening-remark theory that "something is fundamentally wrong with the government's case."

He said that to believe the prosecution, the jury had to believe Szakal acted alone and that the co-conspirators – Justin Welch, Gregory Carpenter and Tecko Tartt – are reliable witnesses.

Geary said Tartt cannot explain his whereabouts on the night of the murders. He contends Tartt went with Szakal and was the shooter. Geary said the prosecution failed to call to the stand anyone who can provide an

(See SZAKAL, Page 2A)

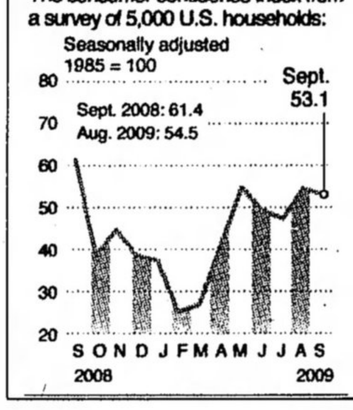
INSIDE TODAY

American Profile

Read a tale of faith, family and football in American Profile – inside today.

Confidence dips

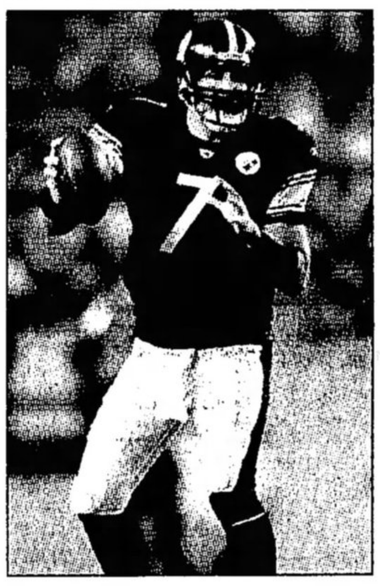
The consumer confidence index from a survey of 5,000 U.S. households:



Valley Business

Job security fears rocked consumer confidence this month. **2C**

SPORTS



Big Ben gets 'Raw'

Ben Roethlisberger will serve as a guest host for "Monday Night Raw." **1B**

Rings flashy

The Pens unveiled their championship rings, and each of the baubles had 167 diamonds. **1B**

Blanked again

The Pirates suffered through their 17th shutout of the season. **3B**

DEATHS

- Phyllis E. Nagy, 83, Perryopolis
- John P. Onisko, 59, Roscoe

Page 4A

WEATHER

Tonight Mostly cloudy 38°
Tomorrow Mostly sunny 64°

Page 2A

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Three sections, 18 Pages

TOMORROW

Read Valley Entertainment, a regular Thursday feature of *The Valley Independent.*

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Impasse costly, per diem by per diem

State Rep. Peter J. Daley was tied for the lead among area lawmakers.

By BRAD BUMSTED
For The Valley Independent
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HARRISBURG — During the first two months of the state budget impasse, lawmakers in the House and Senate collected $532,585 in per diems for food and lodging payments, records show.

Records filed with the House comptroller and Senate chief clerk show 107 Democrats and 74 Republicans collected per diems in July and August. The $158 daily allowance – a flat payment for which legislators don't need receipts – is part of the cost to taxpayers for the unresolved budget that was due July 1.

The taxpayers' costs for per diems would not be incurred if a budget was completed by June 30, as required by law. In the past, the Legislature recessed for 2 1/2 months, starting on or about July 1. They have approved budgets late for the seven years under Gov. Ed Rendell, resulting in some July per diems. But the costs during this budget impasse are the highest since at least the 1970s.

The payments to legislators during the budget impasse "make me sick," said Judy Kandel, 67, a Canonsburg retiree.

"I think since they are getting their pay, they don't give a hoot. They're looking out for themselves, not the people," she said.

The House records cover per diems submitted as of Sept. 8; the Senate records, through Aug. 31. Not all legislators claimed their per diems for the two-month period.

But based on available records, Democratic Reps. John Galloway, of Bucks County, and Ron Waters, of Philadelphia, collected the most — $7,426 for 47 per diems.

Galloway claimed 30 per diems for days when the House was not in session.

"I thought it was important to be in Harrisburg while this was going on," Galloway said. "I got a lot of questions from people, 'Why aren't you in Harrisburg working on the budget?' "

Waters did not return phone calls or e-mails seeking comment.

Both collected more than House Majority Leader Todd Eachus, D-Hazleton, a budget negotiator, who was paid $7,010 for 45 per diems.

Rep. John Evans, of Crawford County, collected the most among Republicans: $6,162. He didn't return phone calls requesting comment.

Legislators can collect per diems on days the Legislature is in session, for committee meetings in Harrisburg or official business in the Capitol, such as spending days in their Harrisburg offices.

Among area lawmakers, Rep. Jake Wheatley, D-Hill District, and Rep. Pete Daley, D-California, collected the most: $6,004, or 38 per diems. Rep. Mark Mustio, R-Moon, followed with $5,846 for 37 days.

(See IMPASSE, Page 8A)

AUTUMN SKIES

Jim Ference/The Valley Independent

Dark clouds roll by as U.S. flags flutter in the wind in front of the Belle Vernon Cemetery.

Heroic Washington Twp. firefighters never off duty

Together on a camping trip, they tried to save a man from a burning trailer.

By JEFF PIKULSKY
Staff Writer
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For a firefighter, the call of duty is never far away.

Four Washington Township firefighters quickly answered that call Aug. 30 when a camper at Scottyland Campground in Rockwood, Somerset County, caught fire.

David Wheatley, 27, Capt. Jonathan Hileman, 23, and Kevin Opat, 21, were celebrating the upcoming wedding of their 22-year-old fellow firefighter, Dustin Premoshis, with a night of camping when the long-time friends heard a life-changing cry for help.

"We were by the lake. I threw three poles in the water and they were getting the fire ready," Premoshis said of his friends. "We heard screaming, 'Help me.'"

At about 1:30 a.m., the four firefighters sprinted about 600 yards through the campsite to find a trailer partially in flames.

"We heard a camper was on fire and to call 911, then we kicked into high gear," Wheatley said.

Premoshis said he called 911 on his cell phone while running to the scene.

"I never thought I could run that

(See HEROIC, Page 2A)

Jeff Pikulsky/The Valley Independent

Washington Township firefighters, from left, Jonathan Hileman, Kevin Opat, David Wheatley and Dustin Premoshis like to pal around, but are always ready to act.

Washington Twp. authority: Shop around

Sewer system customers eventually must connect their buildings to the main line.

By JEFF PIKULSKY
Staff Writer
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WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP – The municipal authority board Tuesday urged customers to shop around when hiring contractors to install lines from their homes to the yet-to-be-constructed sanitary sewer system.

Construction for the $20.8 million project is expected to begin in December or January.

The stalled project moved forward earlier this month when U.S. Rep. John Murtha, D-Johnstown, secured a $2 million grant through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Because of the grant, tap-in fees have been reduced from about $4,800 to $625.

Monthly service rates are estimated at $61 per customer. In addition, people will have to connect their homes to the system.

A list of local contractors will be available at the municipal building. Customers can perform the work themselves or hire contractors not included on the list. However, the work must be inspected.

At the authority board meeting Tuesday, project engineer Dave Kerchner, of Indianola-based Bankson Engineers, said customers should seek many offers before having connecting lines installed.

"We're not going to establish guidelines as to how much someone can charge," Kerchner said. "There are going to be very strict guidelines on how they have to put it in the ground."

Kerchner said the average

(See SHOP, Page 2A)

VALLEY PEOPLE

Heroic (FROM PAGE ONE)

fast, or as far," Premoshis said.

Gary Defrances, 34, of Masontown, was trapped inside and died of smoke inhalation after he fell asleep in the bedroom with a lit cigarette.

"It was too late when we got there, for him anyway," Hileman said.

Although they were unable to get to Defrances, the unequipped firefighters prevented the fire from becoming much worse and endangering others at the campsite.

The group instinctively began acting as a unit, handling different tasks without communicating the need.

The firefighters removed propane tanks from outside, cut the power and used garden hoses and more than a dozen fire extinguishers from other campers to fight the flames.

"It all goes through your mind what you've got to do from the training and your experience," Hileman said.

At one point, Wheatley was overcome with smoke inhalation and Premoshis had to rescue him from the trailer.

"I went back in, and Dustin came in after me as I was trying to get to Gary to get him outside. The next thing I knew I was laying outside," Wheatley said. "I remember it to a vague point, until I passed out and Dustin drug me out."

"I went back after him because you don't leave a brother behind," Premoshis said.

Premoshis also suffered from smoke inhalation. He was treated at a local hospital and released a few hours after the incident.

Defrances' wife and two children were outside of the trailer when Premoshis and his friends arrived.

Hileman said Defrances' wife tried to save her husband.

"She ended up burning her hands while her daughter was outside screaming," Hileman said.

A local fire department arrived after the group had fought the flames for about 20 minutes.

"The fire was coming from the roof, about 6 to 8 feet out," Hileman said.

"We saved the rest of the trailer. It was just that room," Wheatley said. "If it would have hit the propane tanks, it would have took probably a hillside out."

The four firefighters have been volunteers since they were 16.

Of the hundreds of fires and accidents they have witnessed, they said this one would stand out forever.

"It's one I'll never forget," Hileman said. "It's hard because you're there so quick and there was basically nothing really you could do.

"You're basically the first ones there. It would have turned out better if we would have saved him, but it was not meant to be. We did what we could."

"It's not bothering me now like it was before," Premoshis said. "We did the best we could. I've still got that 'what if' in the back on my head."

"That's the only thing that was on your mind the first couple days," Wheatley said of the lost life. "It's like a shadow. It will always be there."

Premoshis' wedding took place a week after the incident.

The bachelor party group attended Defrances' funeral before the wedding.

Washington Township Supervisor Jamie Miller said the firefighters' actions were a testament to their training and willingness to sacrifice their lives.

"When these young men become firemen, I think it's just in their blood," Miller said. "They're on and off the job and they just react, and they do what they're supposed to do, and it's amazing. They're amazing.

"I think their parents, their relatives and the community should be very proud of what they did."

Washington Township Fire Chief Rob Bennett said he was proud of how quickly the four responded and handled the situation without hesitation.

"I feel they have used their training and all that they've learned while being a firefighter, but I don't think they did any different than what any firefighter would have done," Bennett said. "It's the heart of a firefighter and those guys have it."

Yesteryear

This picture and caption were in an issue of American Steel and Wire in 1943. Stephen Huhra is proud of his sons and said if the boys do not win the war, he will show how the Rough Riders did the job with Teddy. Stephen "Beanie" Huhra, center, worked as an accountant in the Wire Department of U.S. Steel in Donora. His sons are, left, Edward Huhra, of the U.S. Army Corps (now the U.S. Air Force) and Raymond, right, U.S. Navy. Raymond and his family reside in Donora." The photo was submitted by Sara Phillips.

Weather

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
High 64 Low 45	High 67 Low 55	High 67 Low 48	High 63 Low 46	High 64 Low 48

Shop (FROM PAGE ONE)

lateral line installation job should cost $1,500 to $3,500.

He said the price will depend on the length of line and if obstacles must be overcome to complete the work.

"Several neighbors can get together and get a single contractor and save money because the guy can do a bunch of homes on the street at the same time," Kerchner said. "It really does vary."

Authority Board President Dee Fisher said tap-in bills will be mailed in March.

Customers soon will be permitted to pay toward the bills at the municipal building. Those who pay in full early will receive discounts.

"We're encouraging people to pay their tap-in fees early because we have to pay the contractors," Fisher said. "If we don't get enough money to pay them from the tap fee, that means we're going to have to borrow more money."

Board member Gloria Yuschak asked about monthly service fees for vacant houses.

"If a person dies or if a person moves away and the house is vacated, that person that owns that house, no matter where they live, will still be charged the minimum amount for sewage?" Yuschak asked Kerchner.

Sewage bills will be based on water usage.

"The customer is still going to be billed. It doesn't go away whether you're using water or not," Kerchner said. "There's going to be a debt service component they still have to pay, whether someone is there or not."

The authority will pay for the project with money from a number of sources, including a $1.2 million grant from the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority and a $9.8 million low-interest loan from the agency.

Township Supervisor Jamie Miller Tuesday said residents should send letters to state Reps. R. Ted Harhai, D-Monessen, and Peter J. Daley, D-California, requesting money from the next round of H2O PA program funding.

Applications for the next round will be accepted in August. The authority received $950,000 in the last H2O funding round. Officials were disappointed because the authority had requested $7.5 million.

Fisher said any additional grant money can be applied to debt service, reducing customers' monthly bills.

Szakal (FROM PAGE ONE)

alibi for Tartt.

He said neighbor Michele Kaczmarek told police that she saw two people in Szakal's truck that night, but the police discounted her statement.

"In this entire prosecution of Jerry, the government picks and chooses little pieces of information that fit their theory, and those pieces that do not, they ignore," Geary said.

Geary said investigators never found the murder weapon, contending Tartt knows where it is.

"He brought the gun to the situation, and he took the gun from the situation," Geary said.

Geary contended police intimidated Szakal into confessing to the crimes – following eight hours of interrogation.

"If you think they weren't screaming at Jerry while he was shackled in that eight-by-eight room, 'You're going to get the death penalty!' I respectfully suggest you're very naive," Geary said.

Geary said police never found Szakal's DNA, blood, fingerprints or footprints at the scene.

He attacked Tartt's testimony and questioned why Tartt would tell Welch he wanted to distance himself from Szakal after the killings and then go to the defendant's home hours later to try to rob him.

He said Szakal's decision to call 911 during the break-in is a sign of his innocence.

Geary admitted Szakal made some questionable decisions, including failure to drive away when he decided he did not want to participate in the crime and allowing others to talk him into the robbery plot.

"You will get angry at Jerry for all of the things he did and he didn't do and should have done, but you have to keep your eye on the ball," Geary said. "None of that is proof of murder."

Geary said juries want closure in cases, and that could lead them to convict Szakal. But he contended that if the panel found Szakal not guilty, prosecutors could rescind their deal with Tartt and charge him with killing the Springers.

Assistant District Attorney Craig McKay said the defense wanted the jury to believe that all of the witnesses except Szakal lied on the stand.

He said Szakal was a fairly frequent customer of Howard Springer's precious metal business, having sold him jewelry at least eight times in the first two months of 2008.

He said the scheme to rob and murder the Springers was hatched in Welch's apartment. Szakal stole jewelry and coins from his mother, sold them to the Springers and then feared business logs would lead to Szakal's arrest, McKay said.

"He devised the scheme to murder the Springers to silence them and the rob them because he needed the money because he was unemployed," McKay said.

He said Tartt provided the gun Szakal needed to commit the crimes.

"Once Mr. Szakal had a gun, the table was set," McKay said.

McKay detailed how Szakal called Howard Springer, telling him he had a friend wishing to sell him coins. Szakal went to the Springers' home alone where he robbed and killed them, McKay said. McKay contended Szakal fled the scene, going back to Welch's home to change and shower. Szakal divided up the money and went on a shopping spree.

McKay painted Szakal as a liar whose story changed each time he talked to authorities.

He was detained at the state police barracks in Rostraver Township for questioning about the thefts from his mother's home as well as the murders. Szakal initially denied involvement in the thefts until police told him they had records of him selling some of the stolen items, McKay said.

He denied being at the Springers' house the night of the thefts until troopers told him they traced incoming telephone calls to the Carroll Township home and found out Szakal had called that night, the prosecutor claimed.

He told police three different stories while being questioned about the murders, initially denying being there and then trying to pin the crime on Tartt before finally admitting to the murders. That story was taped by police, McKay said.

"He told them in detail how and why he killed them – in details that could only be provided by the murderer," McKay said.

McKay said that after Szakal told police three different stories on March 9, 2008, he now wanted the jury to believe Tartt fired the fatal shots.

Szakal testified that he was afraid of Tartt, but McKay questioned why Szakal went back to Welch's house after the murders when he knew Tartt would be there.

"The defendant was not afraid of Tartt because he was the killer and not Tecko Tartt," McKay said.

McKay said Kaczamarek saw a truck similar to Szakal's, but it was not Szakal's.

McKay acknowledged the co-conspirators who testified against Szakal were "criminals for sure," adding that the prosecution "must take witnesses as they find them."

"In the final analysis, Mr. Szakal would like you to believe the state police and all of the commonwealth witnesses are trying to frame him," McKay said.

"I submit to you that all of the witnesses, all of the evidence shows that ro doubt defendant Szakal killed Howard and Nancy Springer."

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Valley briefs

Onorato to launch gubernatorial bid

Allegheny County Executive Dan Onorato will officially announce he's running for governor in 2010 on Oct. 6 in Philadelphia, his campaign said Tuesday.

Onorato, 48, a Democrat from Brighton Heights, will kick off his gubernatorial campaign at Philadelphia's City Hall and visit Harrisburg before ending the day with a rally at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers union hall in Pittsburgh's South Side, said Kevin Kinross, campaign spokesperson.

His campaign stops would include Wilkes-Barre, Allentown, Erie, Johnstown and State College during the two days following.

Onorato's campaign has banked more than $5 million, Kinross said.

He's expected to face challenges by several Democrats in next spring's primary, including Auditor General Jack Wagner from Beechview, Philadelphia businessman Tom Knox, Scranton Mayor Chris Doherty and Montgomery County Commissioner Joe Hoeffel.

A former Pittsburgh councilman and county controller, Onorato is in his second term as county executive.

"Onorato has as good a chance as anyone in securing the Democratic nomination," said Christopher Borick, a political science professor at Muhlenberg College in Allentown. "He comes from a high-profile position in the second biggest population center in the state."

Borick considers Onorato and Wagner, a former state senator, the leading contenders.

"I'd put him and Wagner at the top of the list," he said.

Poll: Corbett has name recognition

A new poll shows state Attorney General Tom Corbett is better known than any of his potential opponents for governor next year.

The Quinnipiac University survey released Wednesday says about 43 percent of Pennsylvania voters view the Republican favorably and about seven percent unfavorably.

The other half of voters said they don't know enough to form an opinion about Corbett, who's been Pennsylvania's chief legal officer since 2005.

But the poll found the other gubernatorial hopefuls have even less name recognition.

Seventy percent or more of the respondents said they did not know enough to form opinions about GOP U.S. Rep. Jim Gerlach or the Democrats — Allegheny County Executive Dan Onorato, state Auditor General Jack Wagner, Scranton Mayor Chris Doherty or Montgomery County Commissioner Joe Hoeffel.

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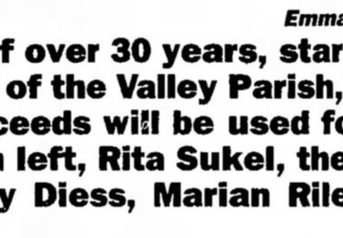
Emma Jene Lelik/For The Valley Independent

Carrying on a tradition of over 30 years, started at St. Dominic Church, parishioners of Our Lady of the Valley Parish, Donora, are planning their annual flea market. Proceeds will be used for the needs of the parish. Shown at work are, from left, Rita Sukel, the Rev. Pierre "Bud" Falkenhan, Rita Demeter, Larry Diess, Marian Riley, Robert Riley and Rose Marie Kopanic.

Donora church bracing for annual flea market

Some 30 years ago, Sister Danielle from St. Dominic Catholic Church in Donora decided to stage a flea market to raise needed funds for the parochial school.

Emma Jene **LELIK**



With the blessings of the pastor, the Rev. Paul Spisak, she began recruiting parishioners to aid her fund-raising project.

The late Francis Vrable was one of the early volunteers. His wife, Betty, worked closely with him.

"Sister had us collecting all year long," Betty Vrable recently recalled.

"We would wash and paint the donated items when needed.

She said the sales were always in the fall and the early ones featured clothing, purses and furniture in addition to the usual fare.

"We even used to sell hot dogs in the first years," Betty said.

She recalled the early sales were set up in the courtyard behind the church and in front of the school building.

"As the popularity grew, we used some of the rooms in the school and later moved to the church basement," Vrable said.

She remembered customers from all over the Mon Valley lining up on the sidewalk along Sixth Street and Thompson Avenue waiting for the doors to open.

"It was always a two-day sale and it still is," she explained.

The church has since merged to become Our Lady of the Valley Parish, but the flea market continues with volunteers from the merged parish helping to make it successful.

The current pastor, the Rev. Pierre "Bud" Falkenhan, is very much involved.

"There's lots of new merchandise to offer for sale along with treasures and miscellaneous items donated by folks," said Michael "Butch" Keyock, one of the volunteers helping to stage the event.

Since the school has now closed, proceeds go for parish needs.

The flea market will be held 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the original St. Dominic worship site.

Medicaid, CHIP costs expected to skyrocket

New study envisions a 101 percent increase.

By DEBRA ERDLEY
For The Valley Independent
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Pennsylvania's bill for Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program, as well as hospital costs for uncompensated health care, will soar in the absence of a comprehensive change in the nation's health care system, a study predicts.

"We hear a lot about the political toll of health reform, but the cost of failing to reform our health care system will be felt most strongly by our state government, our communities and, most importantly, our families and our neighbors. ... The consequences would be blind to politics and felt by Democrats, Republicans and Independents alike," said Dr. Risa Lavizzo-Moury, president and CEO of the New Jersey-based Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

The foundation underwrote the study, released today, that included a state-by-state breakdown of projected cost increases over the next decade if there are no changes to the health care system.

The study projected the state's uninsured population could climb from 1.3 million to 1.7 million over the next decade while Medicaid and CHIP costs could increase by 101 percent and uncompensated care could jump by 121 percent.

"We don't disagree with any of their findings — we have seen costs skyrocket and a shift away from employer/private coverage, and those trends are likely to continue," said Nathan Benefield, director of policy research for the Commonwealth Foundation.

The Commonwealth Foundation, a Harrisburg-based free market think tank, has sounded warnings about Medicaid several times in recent years. Last year, it noted the state's Medicaid spending grew from 12 percent of the state budget in 1980 to 26 percent of the budget by 2007.

"There are ways to actually reform health care, not simply increase government spending — equalizing the tax code so that individuals own their coverage, allowing individuals to purchase across state lines, reducing the number of mandates, etc.," Benefield said.

The new study suggests increasing costs will make employers less likely to continue to offer coverage and individuals less likely to take pricey coverage when it is offered.

Paula Bussard, senior vice president of policy and regulatory services for the Hospital and Health System Association of Pennsylvania, couldn't comment on the projections in the study. But she said the 225 specialty and acute care hospitals the association represents have felt the sting of increases in uncompensated care and a growth in Medicaid numbers in recent years.

"The health care system, which is really America's safety net, can't sustain numbers like this," she said.

Michael Nardone, deputy secretary for Medicaid at the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, said the cost growth projections in the study seem reasonable in light of the increases the agency has seen in recent years.

"In the absence of the stimulus package (in which the federal government gave Pennsylvania $4 billion to defray Medicaid costs over the next three fiscal years), it would have been very difficult to maintain the existing package without benefit reductions to individuals or cuts to providers," Nardone said.

New Pittsburgh casino suffers horrid week

Unless income revives, facility may have trouble making promised payment for projects.

By MIKE WERESCHAGIN
For The Valley Independent
mwereschagin@tribweb.com

Rivers Casino, once expected to be the top money-maker in the state, took in less cash than any other casino last week while the Group of 20 economic summit was in town.

The state reported the low revenue numbers Tuesday, a day after Standard & Poor's lowered the casino company's credit rating to B-minus, from B. Unless its fortunes improve, the rating agency warned the casino might be unable to pay $7.5 million for the Penguins arena, $6 million for Hill District and North Side development and a 55 percent tax rate.

"While revenue is below our original expectation, we're making progress every day, and we're confident we'll be able to meet our financial requirements," casino spokesman Dan Fee said.

State Sen. Jay Costa, D-Forest Hills, the minority appropriations chairman, said lawmakers are optimistic that adding table games, which is part of the 2010 budget proposal, will improve the financial outlook for the Rivers.

The money has to start coming in soon, because the tax rate and funding commitments the casino made don't leave much room for cost-cutting, Standard & Poor's credit analyst Michael Listner said.

Another major expense will hit the casino early next year, when Allegheny County completes its assessment of the property, valued at $4.1 million while the casino was under construction. The county is hiring a professional casino assessor to help decide how to value the property, county spokesman Kevin Evanto said.

The $14.4 million the casino grossed between Sept. 1 and 27 ranked third-worst in the state.

The state Gaming Control Board expected the casino to gross about $612 million a year starting in 2014. Board spokesman Doug Harbach declined to comment on whether the state sticks to those projections.

Diabetes Education Day
Sponsored by: Center for Diabetes and Endocrinology
MVH HEALTH CARE
Saturday, October 3 9 a.m. to Noon
Anthony M. Lombardi Education Conference Center at Monongahela Valley Hospital
Featuring:
•Proper Care of Your Feet - Reducing the Risk of Foot Ulcers
•What Is Peripheral Arterial Disease
•Understanding the Glycemic Index
•Health Information Booths Including "Ask The Diabetes Educator"
Although the program is free and open to the public, advance registration is requested at 724-258-1148.
For more information on Diabetes Education, please visit the Health Library link on Monongahela Valley Hospital's website, monvalleyhospital.com
MVH Monongahela Valley Hospital HEALTH CARE
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RECORDS

DEATH NOTICES

MUCCINO — Mario J. "Mooch" Muccino Sr., 80, of Dunlevy, formerly of Monessen, on Monday, Sept. 28. Dalfonso-Billick Funeral Home Inc., Monessen.*

NAGY — Phyllis E. Nagy, 83, of Perryopolis, on Tuesday, Sept. 29. Blair-Lowther Funeral Home Inc., Perryopolis.*

ONISKO — John P. Onisko, 59, of Roscoe, on Sunday, Sept. 27. Melenyzer-DuBarr Funeral Homes & Cremation Services Inc., Roscoe.*

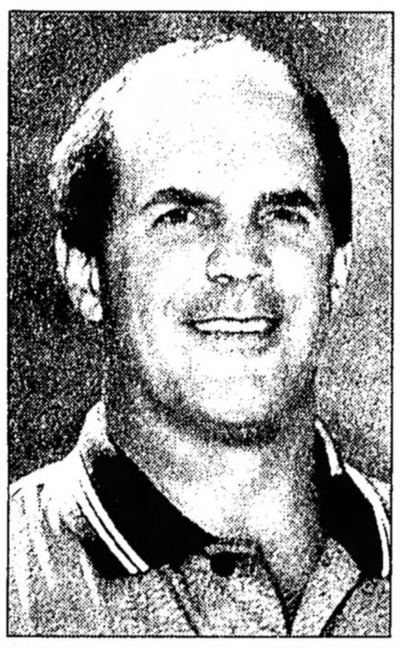
PREVIOUS DEATHS:
DUDA, Elizabeth Anne*
IACOBONI, Ralph*
RUBACHKO, Ralph*
*** See death notice**

Elizabeth Anne Duda

Cheyenne, Wyo.

Elizabeth Anne Duda, 37, of Cheyenne, Wyo., passed away Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2009, in Cheyenne. She was born April 5, 1972, in Bradford, and had lived in Cheyenne for the past three months with prior residence in Annandale, Va. Anne was a 1990 graduate of Smethport Area High School, graduated magna cum laude from the University of Pittsburgh in 1994, with a degree in English literature and French. She was a member of the National Education Association and the Golden Key Honor Society. She loved teaching English and working with her students. She taught at Liberty High School in Colorado Springs, Colo., and Alamogordo High School, Alamogordo, New Mexico. She was a loving wife, mother, sister, aunt and daughter who was devoted to her family. Survivors include her husband, Lt. Col. John F. Duda, Jr., a 1985 graduate of Mon Valley Catholic High School, whom she married Aug. 7, 1993, at St. Elizabeth's parish in Smethport; two daughters, Cecilia and Sophia , both of Cheyenne; her siblings, Anthony J. Alfieri, Thomas M. Alfieri, (Kimberly) James V. Alfieri (Vicki) and Michael D. Alfieri, all of Smethport and Mary Alfieri Richmond (Mark) of Erie, and David P. Alfieri of Texas; her loving in-laws, John and Linda Duda of Coal Center; and her sisters-in-law and brother-in-law, Charlotte Duda, Rachel Abel and Matthew Duda, who all loved her like a sister. She is also survived by 12 nieces and nephews: Alexandra, Felicia and Dominic Alfieri, Jonathan and Allison Richmond, Connor, Preston and Jocelyn Alfieri, April, Steven and Laura Alfieri and Caroline Abel. Friends will be received on Wednesday from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. and Thursday until 9:30 a.m. in the JAMES C. STUMP FUNERAL HOME INC., 580 Circle Drive, Belle Vernon/Rostraver Township (724-929-7934) www.jamesstumpfuneralhome.com A funeral Mass will be celebrated on Thursday at 10 a.m. in the Church of St. Anne, 1870 Rostraver Road, Belle Vernon, with the Rev. Ronald L. Simboli, presiding. Interment will follow in Sacred Heart Cemetery, Carroll Township. The family suggests memorial contributions in Mrs. Anne Duda's memory be made to the Children's Literary Section at the Base Library, 7205 Randall Ave., Cheyenne, Wyo., 82005.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.



Ralph Iacoboni

Rostraver Township

Ralph Iacoboni, 57, of Belle Vernon (Rostraver Township), died Monday, Sept. 28, 2009, at 3:40 a.m. at West Penn Hospital, Pittsburgh. Born Oct. 4, 1951, in North Charleroi, he was the son of Ralph V. and Romilda J. Nesti Iacoboni of North Belle Vernon. A lifelong resident of Belle Vernon, Mr. Iacoboni was a member of St. Sebastian Church, Belle Vernon, a graduate of Belle Vernon Area High School and Indiana University of Pennsylvania, was partner/owner of Val's Car Wash and Beer Distributor, served as a Belle Vernon Area School Board member for eight years and presently served as a Rostraver Township commissioner. He coached the Belle Vernon Wildcats midget football League for 23 years, was a member of the East Belle Vernon Athletic Club, Hungarian Club of Pricedale, and the Belle Vernon Musical Society and loved to snow ski and golf with his family and friends. In addition to his parents he is survived by two daughters, Tessa Iacoboni of Philadelphia and Cara Iacoboni of Belle Vernon; a granddaughter, Kazmira Iacoboni; his brother and sister-in-law, Raymond and Rosemary Iacoboni of North Belle Vernon; sister and brother-in-law, Rosemary and Tom Mavrikas of North Belle Vernon; three nieces, Angela Julia, Gina Lucia and Maria Rose Iacoboni; and three nephews, Ryan, Anthony and Dominic Mavrikas. Visitation will be held Wednesday from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. at the LEONARD J. PARZYNSKI FUNERAL HOME. Funeral services will be held Thursday at 11:30 a.m. in the funeral home with the Rev. Lawrence L. Manchas officiating. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Leonard J. Parzynski Funeral Home, Family Owned and Operated, 626 Broad Ave., Belle Vernon, 724-929-6183. Interment will take place in Belle Vernon Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions be made in memory of Ralph Iacoboni to the Belle Vernon Wildcats, 32 Mulberry St., Belle Vernon, Pa., 15012, attention: Jesse Cramer, or to St. Sebastian School. Condolences accepted at the funeral homes Web site, www.parzynskifuneralhome.com

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Mario J. 'Mooch' Muccino Sr.

Dunlevy

Mario J. "Mooch" Muccino Sr., 80, of Dunlevy, formerly of Monessen, died Monday, Sept. 28, 2009, in Monongahela Valley Hospital Inc. He was born in Monessen on April 11, 1929, the son of the late Rocco and Nunzia (Galuppo) Muccino. Mario grew up in Monessen and was a 1947 graduate of Monessen High School. He had worked 46 years at the Allenport Plant of Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel in the Tube Mill and the Strip Mill, retiring in 1991. He was a member of St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church in Roscoe, Mon Valley Shipmates, American Legion Post 801 in Roscoe, Eagles Aerie 2399 in Monessen, and a life member of the Sons of Italy. He was a veteran of the Korean War, having served with the U.S. Navy on the U.S.S. Des Moines. He is survived by six children: Mario J. Muccino and wife Norma of Monessen, Michael E. Muccino and wife Julia of Rostraver Township, Barbara Ann Sanders of Donora, Nancy Rulong and husband Harry of Kissimmee, Fla., and Rocco A. Muccino and Robert S. Muccino, both of Dunlevy; two brothers and a sister-in-law, Joseph and Irene Muccino and Anthony Muccino, all of Belle Vernon; seven grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Mary P. (Tissicino) Muccino, in January of 1989. Friends will be received Wednesday from 6 to 8 p.m. and Thursday from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. in the DALFONSO-BILLICK FUNERAL HOME INC. AND CREMATION SERVICES, 441 Reed Ave., Monessen, (724-684-8750). Services will be held on Friday, Oct. 2, beginning with a prayer at 8:15 a.m. in the funeral home, followed by a 9 a.m. funeral Mass in St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church, Roscoe. Interment will follow in Grandview Cemetery, Monessen. The Mon Valley Shipmates will conduct a two bell ceremony on Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the funeral home. The Knights of Columbus Council 954 will conduct a prayer service at 7 p.m. Thursday in the funeral home. Condolences accepted for the family at www.dalfonso-billick.com.

Navy

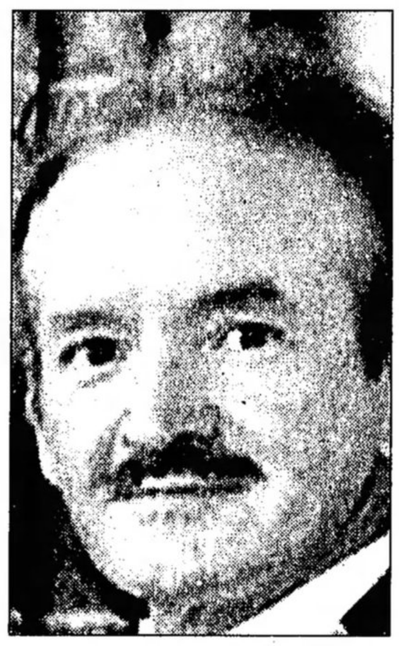
Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Phyllis E. Nagy

Perryopolis

Phyllis E. Nagy, 83, of Perryopolis, passed away Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2009. She was born Dec. 6, 1925, in Rostraver Township, a daughter of the late Frank and Edna Snyder Naylor. Phyllis was a member of St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church and the Perryopolis Golden Age Travel Club. She is survived by the following children: Thomas A. Nagy Jr. and wife Fran of Perryopolis; Dennis W. Nagy and wife Kim of Belle Vernon; Pam Nagy of Perryopolis; and Larry D. Nagy of Monessen; four grandchildren, Tom Nagy III and wife Julie of Uniontown, Lisa Elnikar and husband Eddie of Perryopolis, Jill Kopsack and husband Ken of Perryopolis, and Michael Murphy of Perryopolis; two great-grandchildren, Paige Nagy of Uniontown, and Madison Kopsack of Perryopolis; three sisters, Dorothy Erdely of Perryopolis, Helen Shychuk and husband Andy of Wyano, and Linda Lennex of Fellsburg; two brothers, Glenn Naylor and wife Grace of Fellsburg, and Jerry Naylor and wife Darlene of Belle Vernon. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Thomas A. Nagy Sr.; one sister, Betty Hines; and two brothers, Donald Naylor and Jim Naylor. Friends will be received in the BLAIR-LOWTHER FUNERAL HOME INC., 305 Rear Independence St., Perryopolis, on Wednesday from 7 to 9 p.m., and Thursday from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m., where a prayer service will be held Friday at 9:30 a.m., followed by Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. in St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church, Perryopolis, with the Rev. Father James F. Petrovsky, celebrant. Interment will be in St. Johns Cemetery, Perryopolis. A wake service will be held Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the funeral home.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.



John P. Onisko

Roscoe

John P. Onisko, 59, of Roscoe, died suddenly Sunday, Sept. 27, 2009. He was born March 7, 1950, in New Eagle, a son of the late Michael Onisko Sr. and Marie Moravitz Onisko Burns. He was Greek Orthodox by faith, a member of the Roscoe American Legion Post 801, a former member of the Roscoe Slovak Club, and a former employee of Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel, Allenport Plant. John was a veteran of the Vietnam War, an avid hunter and enjoyed attending Motor Cross races with his boys. Survivors include three children and his ex-wife, Johnny Patrick Onisko of West Brownsville, Steven Willis Onisko of Roscoe, Tania Ann Onisko Slother (Shane) of Marienville, Pa., and JoAnne Walker Onisko of Roscoe; two grandchildren, Hannah JoAnne Slother and Samuel John Slother; a brother, Mike Onisko Jr. of Franklinville, N.Y.; a niece, Aimee Onisko McCloy, and nephew, Michael Onisko, both of Roscoe; and one aunt, Margaret Moravitz Berdak of Hyattsville, Md. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a granddaughter, Alyssa Ann Slother, who passed away Sept. 23, 2008, at the age of three. Friends will be received from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday in the MELENYZER-DUBARR FUNERAL HOMES AND CREMATION SERVICES INC., 1008 Furlong Ave., Roscoe. American Legion service at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the funeral home with funeral service Friday, Oct. 2, at 10 a.m. with Father James Ragan officiating. Interment will follow in Mon Valley Memorial Park, Donora. Online condolences will be accepted on the funeral home Web site, www.melenyzer-dubarr.com.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Ralph Rubachko

Fallowfield Township

Ralph Rubachko, 63, of Fallowfield Township, passed away Sunday, Sept. 27, 2009, in Mon Valley Hospital. A son of the late Frank and Mary Rubachko, he was born in New Eagle on Aug. 19, 1946. Catholic by faith, he had resided in Fallowfield Township for the past 14 years. He was a member of the American Legion Post 22 and the V.F.W, both of Charleroi, and served in the U.S. Marines in Vietnam. Survivors include two sons, Ryan Rubachko of Belle Vernon and Brad Jampedro of North Charleroi; one sister, Mary Ann Gade of Scottsdale, Ariz.; and one brother, Robert Rubachko of Laguna Niguel, Calif. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Patricia Jampetro Rubachko on Dec. 28, 2006. Graveside services, with military honors, will be Thursday, Oct. 1, 2009, at 9 a.m., in the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies, Bridgeville. The FERGUSON FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATORY INC., 724-929-5300, 700 Broad Ave., Belle Vernon is handling arrangements. www.FergusonFuneralHomeAndCrematory.com

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Two injured in Webster collision

Both drivers were taken to hospitals following the Tuesday morning crash.

ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP – An Elizabeth woman was flown to a Pittsburgh hospital following a two-vehicle collision Tuesday morning in Webster.

Rostraver police said a Chevrolet Monte Carlo driven by Deborah Chovan, 35, of Elizabeth, and a Ford Explorer driven by Ryan Spencer, 31, of New Eagle, collided on Route 906 at Turkey Hollow Road at about 10:30 a.m.

Police said the accident occurred on the stretch of Route 906 where the four lanes merge into two. Currently, there are no traffic lines painted on the road.

Chovan had to be extricated from her car by Rostraver firefighters. She was flown by emergency helicopter to Allegheny General Hospital. A hospital spokesman had no record of her having been treated at the hospital.

Police said Spencer was able to free himself from his car. He was taken to Mon Valley Hospital for treatment.

Rostraver police were assisted by Rostraver Central and Rostraver No. 1 (Webster) fire departments, Monessen police and Rostraver/West Newton ambulance personnel.

Police said the accident is under investigation.

Jim Ference/The Valley Independent

This car driven by Deborah Chovan, 35, of New Eagle, was involved in a collision Tuesday morning in Webster. The drivers of both vehicles were injured, police said.

In Memory Of
Betty Ann Riggle
In loving memory of our beloved wife & mother, Betty Ann Riggle, who passed away 2 years ago today, September 30th, 2007. We live today with memories of days when you were here, we miss you still and always will throughout each day and year. At night when all is silent and sleep forsakes our eyes, our thoughts are in that lonely grave where our dear loved one lies.
Sadly missed and loved by family Jack, Staci, Shannon & Holt

In Memory of
Betty Ann Riggle
In loving memory of our beloved daughter, sister, sister-in-law and aunt, **Betty Ann Riggle,** who passed away 2 years ago today, September 30, 2007. This day is remembered and quietly kept, no need for reminders, we will never forget. Deep in our hearts you will always stay, loved and remembered every day. No one knows the grief we bear when the family meets and you're not there. Wishing today as we wished before, that God could have spared you many years more.
Sadly missed and loved forever by Mom, Sisters and their Families.

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In Memory Of
Richard J. Fedorchak
In loving memory of my beloved husband, Richard J. Fedorchak, who passed away eighteen years ago, September 27, 1991
There is still an ache in my heart today that the passing years have not taken away. A place in my heart that nothing can fill. I miss you and always will. Your memory is my keepsake, with that we will never part, God has you in His keeping, I have you in my heart.
Sadly missed and loved by his wife, Cindy

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NEWS

TODAY IN HISTORY

SEPTEMBER 30

Today is Wednesday, Sept. 30, the 273rd day of 2009. There are 92 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight

On Sept. 30, 1809, the Treaty of Fort Wayne (also known as the Ten O'Clock Line Treaty) was signed by Indiana Territory Gov. William Henry Harrison and representatives of four Indian tribes. (Under terms of the treaty, the Indians sold some 3 million acres of land to be used for U.S. settlements.)

On this date:

■ In 1777, the Continental Congress — forced to flee in the face of advancing British forces — moved to York, Pa.

■ In 1791, Mozart's opera "The Magic Flute" premiered in Vienna, Austria.

■ In 1846, Boston dentist William Morton used ether as an anesthetic for the first time as he extracted an ulcerated tooth from merchant Eben Frost.

■ In 1938, after co-signing the Munich Agreement allowing Nazi annexation of Czechoslovakia's Sudetenland, British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain praised the accord on his return home, saying, "I believe it is peace for our time."

■ In 1939, the first college football game to be televised was shown on experimental station W2XBS in New York as Fordham University defeated Waynesburg College, 34-7.

■ In 1949, the Berlin Airlift came to an end.

■ In 1954, the first nuclear-powered submarine, the USS Nautilus, was commissioned by the Navy.

■ In 1962, black student James Meredith was escorted by federal marshals to the campus of the University of Mississippi, where he enrolled for classes the next day.

■ In 1988, Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev retired President Andrei A. Gromyko from the Politburo and fired other old-guard leaders in a Kremlin shake-up.

■ **Ten years ago**: Defense Secretary William Cohen ordered a top-level investigation of accounts of mass killings of Korean civilians by U.S. soldiers at No Gun Ri in 1950.

■ **Five years ago**: President George W. Bush and Sen. John Kerry met at the University of Miami for their first debate, with Kerry accusing Bush of a "colossal error in judgment" in ordering the invasion of Iraq and the president noting that Kerry had voted to authorize the military action

■ **One year ago**: Congressional leaders and President George W. Bush rummaged through ideas new and old, desperately seeking to change a dozen House members' votes and pass a multibillion-dollar economic rescue plan.

Manouchehr Mottaki, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iran, waits to meet with United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon Tuesday at the United Nations headquarters.

Associated Press

Analysis: U.S. has high ground in Iran talks

U.S. is determined to prevent Iran from building a nuclear bomb.

By STEVEN R. HURST
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration has gained the high ground in upcoming talks with Iran, but Tehran — famous for diplomatic stall tactics — will probably leave the Geneva negotiations having bought still more time to pursue its nuclear ambitions.

Even though the U.S. and two key allies disclosed last week that Iran was secretly building a second uranium enrichment plant, and even though the Russians have spoken more positively about tough sanctions against Tehran, the Islamic republic remained unlikely to succumb to international pressure.

"It's a game of cat-and-mouse," said Aaron David Miller of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, who served for two decades in the State Department as a senior Mideast policy adviser.

Regardless of the uranium enrichment disclosure or Russia's new comments on sanctions, Miller said, "I don't see any change in the objectives of either side — Iran's determination to build a bomb and the United States' mission" to prevent Tehran from reaching that goal.

Iran already is under U.N. sanctions, but the international opprobrium is much watered down from what the United States, Britain and France wanted. Russia and China, who trade heavily with Iran and hold the two other U.N. Security Council vetoes, have so far refused to join in the kind of international punishment that would cause the Iranian regime deep and behavior-changing pain.

At last week's U.N. General Assembly, however, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said, "Sanctions rarely lead to productive results but in some cases are inevitable." The Obama administration trumpeted those words as a signal that the Kremlin was now on board.

But former diplomats and specialists doubt the Russians are going to endanger their profitable commercial and military trade relations with Iran.

Nicholas Burns, a professor of diplomacy at Harvard who was the Bush administration's point man on Iran from 2005-08, said he supports President Barack Obama's policy of reaching out to Iran before threatening it with more sanctions.

But, he said, he remains skeptical that the Russians are really ready to join in a serious sanctions effort.

James Collins, a former ambassador to Russia and now a leading Russia expert at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, said the Kremlin will undoubtedly support the Obama administration's demands that Iran immediately open the newly disclosed enrichment plant to inspection by the U.N.

The Kremlin will go that far "as long as it's only carrots and no sticks," Collins said. "The Russians genuinely believe that sanctions will not have an effect but will only make things worse."

All assessments suggest the Chinese want to do everything they can to keep and expand trade relations with Iran. Beijing desperately needs Iranian oil and Tehran depends heavily on gasoline and oil field equipment from China.

Miller said China would only move on sanctions if Russia does. Beijing is happy to publicly hide behind Russian policy as a matter of solidarity, using that as a cover for mercantile pragmatism.

There will be "endless maneuvering. This can stretch out for a long time," he said.

In the end, the experts agree that the U.S. has three choices — assuming Tehran does not back down and Russia and China hold fast to their anti-sanctions policies:

■ Washington can accept Iran as a nuclear-armed state, which would throw the Middle East power structure into chaos.

■ The U.S. or Israel could take military action against Iranian nuclear sites. Both countries have said they would not take that option out of play.

■ As was the case with the Soviet Union after World War II, the U.S. can settle in for a long haul of trying to contain Iranian power.

None of the options is particularly welcome.

U.S. speeds Iraq withdrawal

Troops plan to leave Iraq by the end of 2011.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States is speeding up its military withdrawal from Iraq, sending 4,000 more troops home next month, the top American commander there says.

The reduced number of troops in Iraq — from 124,000 to 120,000 by the end of October — marks the latest U.S. step in winding down the six-year war. The reduction was to be announced today by Army Gen. Ray Odierno.

"We have already begun deliberately drawing down our forces — without sacrificing security," Odierno said in a statement he was to deliver to the House Armed Services Committee.

"As we go forward, we will thin our lines across Iraq in order to reduce the risk and sustain stability through a deliberate transition of responsibilities to the Iraqi security forces," Odierno said.

A copy of the testimony was obtained Tuesday by The Associated Press. A Defense Department official confirmed Odierno planned to announce he is reducing the number of brigades in Iraq, as has been widely expected.

In his eight-page statement, Odierno voiced cautious optimism about Iraq's future. But his outlook for the nation he called an enduring U.S. interest was far from rosy.

He predicted several looming problems as U.S. troops prepare to end combat missions by September 2010 and leave Iraq at the end of 2011.

Suspect sought in pharmacy robbery

Police said the man demanded Oxycontin pills.

By JEFF OLIVER
Staff Writer
joliver@tribweb.com

GRINDSTONE – State police are investigating a robbery that took place Tuesday night in this Redstone Township village.

According to state police from the Belle Vernon barracks, a white male walked into the Rite Aid, 6039 National Pike, at approximately 8:30 p.m. and went to the pharmacy area.

The suspect claimed he had a gun and demanded and received an undetermined amount of Oxycontin pills.

After getting the drugs, he fled the building on foot in an unknown direction.

Trooper Joseph Panepinto said that the suspect did not go to the cash register area and demand money.

"He did not brandish a gun and nobody was injured," Panepinto said. "He only demanded Oxycontin."

The suspect was described as being between 20 and 25 years of age, standing approximately five feet, five inches to five feet, seven inches tall with a thin build.

He was wearing a grey hooded sweatshirt and blue jeans.

State police are asking anyone who may have witnessed the incident or with any information to contact the Belle Vernon barracks at (724) 929-6262.

All information received will remain confidential.

POLICE LOG

Monongahela

■ John S. Waltrowski, 63, of 6141 Brownsville Road Ext., Finleyville, was charged with DUI and driving while privileges were either suspended or revoked as a result of investigation of a two-vehicle accident that took place approximately 10 p.m. Friday on Washington Avenue in Finleyville, police said. There were no injuries resulting from the accident, but both vehicles were towed from the scene.

California

■ Kate Lyn Ann Meneghini, 18, of Jeannette, was cited for public drunkenness and underage drinking at 1:14 a.m. today on Second Street, police said.

THE WORLD BRIEFLY

Powerful quake triggers tsunami

APIA, Samoa (AP) — A powerful earthquake in the South Pacific hurled a massive tsunami at the shores of Samoa and American Samoa, flattening villages and sweeping cars and people out to sea, leaving at least 99 dead and dozens missing.

Survivors fled the fast-churning water for higher ground and remained huddled there hours after the quake struck early Tuesday. Signs of devastation were everywhere, with a giant boat washed ashore lying on the edge of a highway and floodwaters swallowing up cars and homes.

The quake, with a magnitude between 8.0 and 8.3, struck around dawn about 125 miles from Samoa, an island nation of 180,000 people located about halfway between New Zealand and Hawaii. It struck about 120 miles from neighboring American Samoa, a U.S. territory that is home to 65,000 people.

'PENNSYLVANIA CASH 5'

One player hits 'Cash 5' jackpot

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — One player matched all five winning numbers drawn in Tuesday's "Pennsylvania Cash 5" game and will collect a jackpot worth $1,231,553.

Lottery officials said 236 players matched four numbers and won $289 each; 9,455 players matched three numbers and won $12 each; and 117,119 players matched two numbers and won $1 each.

The Valley Independent Lottery Results

PENNSYLVANIA — DAILY NUMBERS

TUESDAY, September 29, 2009

DAY PICK 3:	7-9-4
NIGHT PICK 3:	1-5-7
DAY PICK BIG 4:	5-4-8-4
NIGHT PICK BIG 4:	8-5-2-8
DAY QUINTO:	4-7-3-4-5
NIGHT QUINTO:	7-0-0-6-0
TREASURE HUNT:	12-18-21-24-30
CASH 5:	13-14-28-31-40
SUPER 7:	18-30-36-51-58-59 60-68-69-70-72

OHIO — DAILY NUMBERS

TUESDAY, September 29, 2009

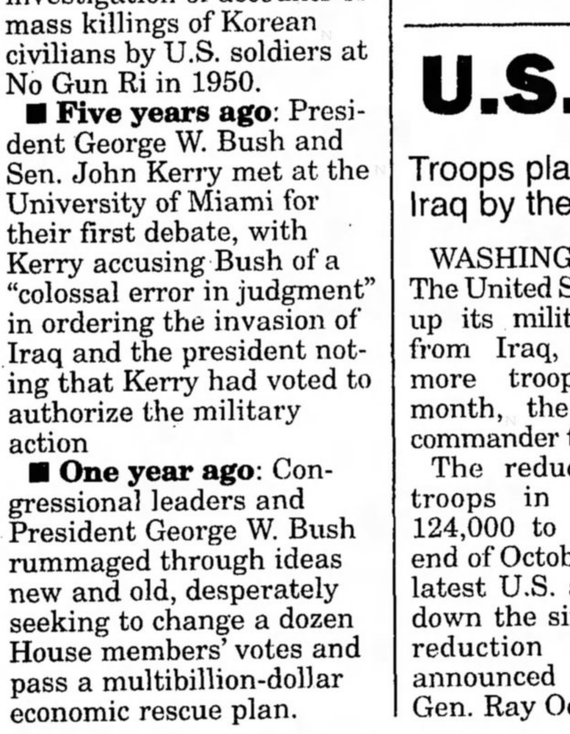
DAY PICK 3:	0-6-9
NIGHT PICK 3:	6-2-5
DAY PICK 4:	5-2-5-1
NIGHT PICK 4:	2-2-3-6
ROLLING CASH 5:	6-10-31-33-37

WEST VIRGINIA — DAILY NUMBERS

TUESDAY, September 29, 2009

DAILY 3:	2-0-3
DAILY 4:	4-1-2-5
CASH 25:	2-3-5-6-14-18

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of winning numbers and prize payouts. In the event of a discrepancy, the official and certified files maintained by the Pennsylvania Lottery's Security Office shall prevail.



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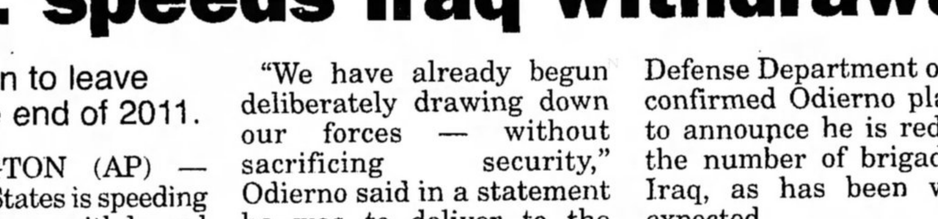

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OUR OPINION

Frazier moving in right direction

WITH A DESIRE to increase the level of technology in the school district, Frazier's new superintendent shows great promise.

However, Donald Martin also faces a daunting task — and that is to maintain and improve Frazier's level of academic excellence.

When Dr. Frederick Smeigh arrived at Frazier in 1991, the district was a mess, both academically and economically. Under his leadership in the ensuing years, Frazier improved both facilities and educational programs.

Frazier students now routinely meet No Child Left Behind standards and find success when they move on from the high school.

Since his days in Monessen, Martin has moved smoothly from the classroom to educational administration. He has held a number of leadership positions at area school districts, and came to Frazier as middle school principal in 2006. After a stint as high school principal, he became assistant superintendent in December. He officially took over as superintendent Sept. 1, but had worked since May with former Superintendent Dr. Dennis Spinella in a summer-long transition of power.

Martin is striving to establish paperless records and is working on a system to allow parents to enroll their children electronically. In a deal with Dell, each high school student has an e-mail account and access to a laptop computer.

More improvements are coming, he said.

Beyond all that, student achievement will remain at the forefront, Martin said.

He said administrators will be more visible in classrooms. Teachers will undergo professional development programs and students will undergo enrichment programs.

His most difficult task will be to establish a strong working relationship with the school board. He must work diligently to convince the board to spend money on education. At the same time, Martin must recognize the board has a fiscal responsibility to taxpayers. He must pick his spots.

All that said, it always comes down to the students in his charge and the staff members who educate them.

"We have a cohesive, caring administrative staff and the best teachers," Martin said. "They care about these kids. They care about their education."

Martin should stick with the basic ingredients of that successful recipe — and strive to make it better.

ANOTHER VIEW

The Blade, Toledo, Ohio, on a soda tax:

If government can levy taxes on tobacco products to generate not only revenue but confer public health benefits with respect to smoking rates, why not apply the same principle to taxing sugary soft drinks to raise funds for health-care reform while fighting obesity? Obviously, the beverage industry has plenty of reasons to oppose the proposal, but strong advocates in the medical community make the idea one worth considering.

A team of prominent doctors, scientists, and policy makers who researched the subject are convinced that a tax on any soft drink with any added caloric sweetener that helps drive the obesity epidemic could cut consumption.

In a report published in the New England Journal of Medicine, the group proposed an excise tax of 1 percent per ounce for sugary beverages. They said studies have shown that taxes can lower consumption of soda and other sweet drinks — sugar-free diet drinks are not included — enough to lead to a small weight loss and reduced health risks among many Americans.

How to reach us

The Valley Independent welcomes the input of our readers. Letters, e-mails and faxes must be signed and should include an address and daytime telephone number so the content of the message can be verified. (Phone numbers will not be published.)

Send your comments:

— By mail to Your Opinion, *The Valley Independent*, Eastgate 19, Monessen, Pa. 15062.

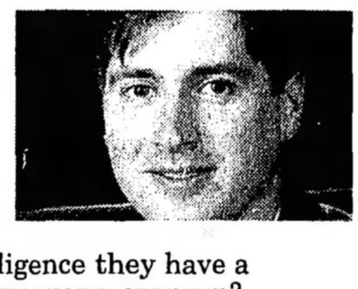
— By e-mail to valleyletters@tribweb.com

— By fax to (724) 684-2603.

All messages are subject to editing for clarification, brevity and libel. Messages should be kept to 300 words. (No poetry, please.) While letters usually are published in order of submission, those concerning timely local issues are given priority.

The Iran charade

Rich **LOWRY**



The revelation of an Iranian uranium-enrichment facility buried in a mountain at an Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps base near the religious city of Qom might seem ominous. If, that is, the Iranians were determined to develop a nuclear weapon.

Fortunately, we are advised that they are not. In November 2007, U.S. intelligence agencies wrote a National Intelligence Estimate concluding, "We judge with high confidence that in fall 2003, Tehran halted its nuclear weapons program." The intelligence community appears to be sticking by its judgment, which means — cue the sighs of relief — that the Qom facility may be only a strange curiosity.

Apparently, the Iranian regime is an obscurantist theocracy with an unquenchable taste for conducting massive experiments in advanced physics. In secret. In heavily defended facilities. The 2007 NIE had a very circumscribed definition of a weapons program, but it included "covert conversion-related and uranium enrichment-related work." Exactly what Qom is for. What do the Iranians have to do to convince U.S. intelligence they have a weapons program?

Iran has been very lucky in its watchdogs. The 2007 NIE, which stands exposed as about as worthless as George Tenet's prewar talk of a "slam-dunk" on Iraq's WMD, crushed any thought of the politically weakened Bush administration moving against Iran.

And the punch-pulling International Atomic Energy Agency has been suppressing damaging material, concerned more with forestalling a conflict over Iran's nuclear program than forestalling the program itself.

If the mullahs have a sense of humor, they must enjoy the farcical aspect of their showdown with the hapless "international community." Immediately after President Barack Obama and Co. scolded them over the Qom facility, they test-launched short- and medium-range missiles in an in-your-face military exercise named The Great Prophet IV. The Iranians want to become a nuclear power on the Pyongyang Plan, featuring lots of bluster and lies coupled with interminable negotiations and negotiations over negotiations.

The Qom facility is less a surprise than more confirmation of standard Iranian procedure. In 2002, the Iranians were caught with an undeclared enrichment facility at Natanz. A few years later, they were caught trying to figure out how to get a warhead onto a Shahab missile. Each revelation brings its international tsk-tsking, as Iran's program marches on.

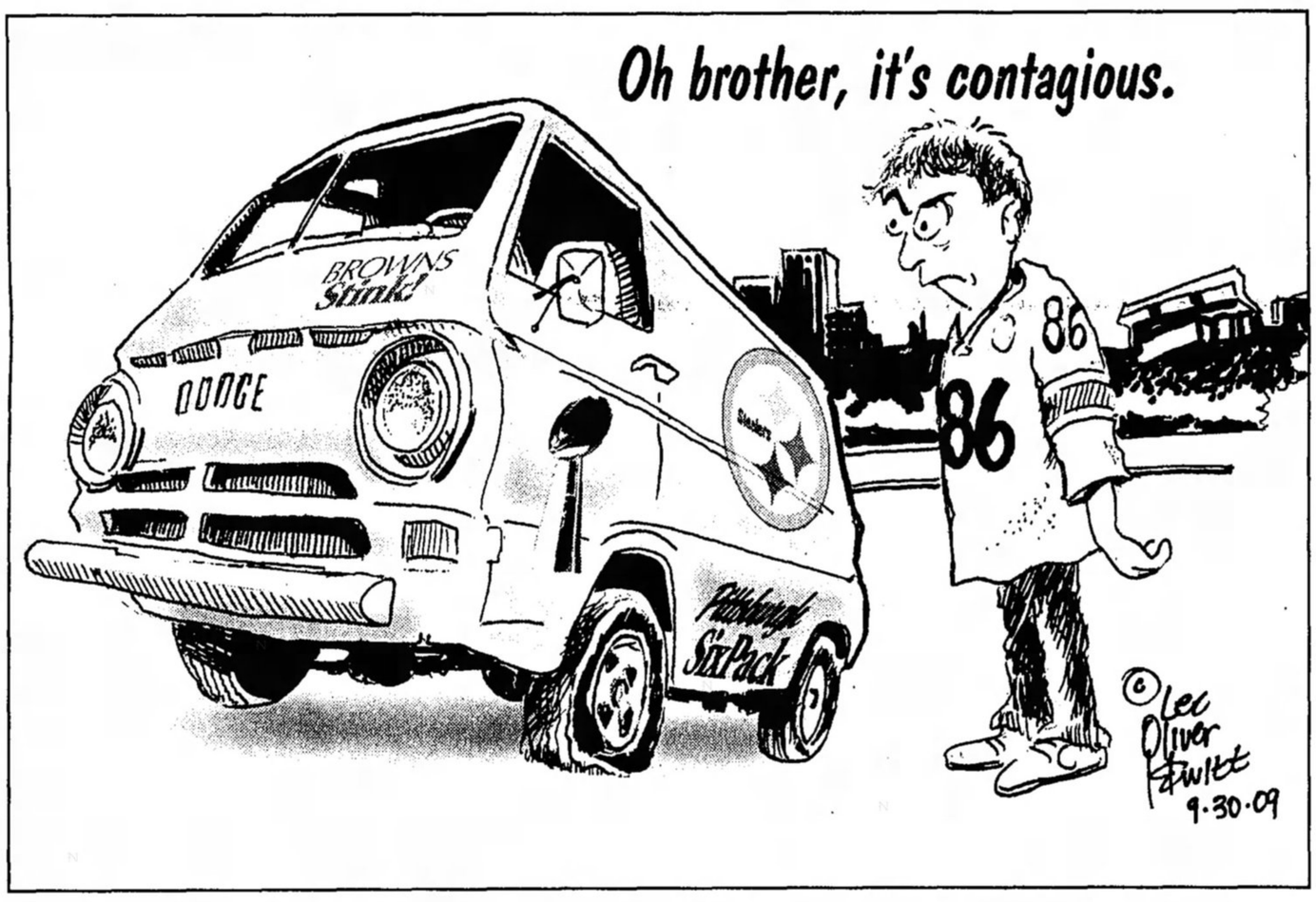
In a painfully wishful sentiment, Obama says that gaining a nuclear weapon is not in the Iranians' interest. But Tehran isn't so foolish. With a nuke, it knows it will have a deterrent against us; a means to destroy Israel; and an instant boost to its influence and prestige in the region.

The Iranians consider the world order to be deeply unjust, foisted on everyone else by the Jews and the West, using the lie of the Holocaust for leverage. Iranian power is to be the instrument of this order's reformation. The regime would have to be thoroughly irrational — even on its own apocalyptic terms — to want to give up the prospect of a weapon merely to avoid tougher sanctions that may never arrive.

The notion that a bomb isn't in the Iranians' interest feeds the fantasy that they can be coaxed out of it by dialogue. If only they could understand our good intentions, if only we hash out a mutually agreeable accommodation, then they will realize their true interest is in eschewing proliferation. This attitude is about as cleareyed as the 2007 NIE.

The Europeans have been embroiled in negotiations with the Iranians for years, pleading with them to abide by repeated U.N. resolutions urging them to suspend their uranium enrichment. The Iranians have kept going since 2006. Tellingly, they had indeed suspended enrichment back in 2003, after the Europeans told them they risked courting the same fate as Saddam Hussein's Iraq.

Through the haze of delusion over Iran's nuclear ambitions, that's a stark lesson in the persuasive power of fear. But why would anyone who is not an American insurance executive or a highly compensated banker be scared of Barack Obama?



Ready, aim, fire McChrystal

Diana **WEST**

There are many reasons to fire Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal, and all of them are contained within his 66-page "assessment" of the war in Afghanistan.

The document is fascinating, just as the work of zealots is always fascinating. As a high priest of the politically correct orthodoxy, McChrystal has laid out a strategy to combat Taliban jihad in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan without once mentioning Islam, and forget about jihad (fireable offense No. 1).

The resulting black hole leads the commander to conclude, for example, that the reason the 99 percent-plus Muslim people of Afghanistan are "reluctant to align with us" is due to the "perception" — eight years and untold billions in largesse after we entered the country — "that our resolve is uncertain." Nothing so simple as what a member of the Afghan parliament recently told the Economist: "The Taliban tell them the Koran says they have to fight the Crusaders and they believe them."

No, it's all our fault. Seizing on the Left's all-time favorite villain, the general blames us — our troops — for the Afghan people not liking us. And that, according to the report, is why we're losing this war (fireable offense No. 2).

To win what McChrystal describes not as a battle in the war on global jihad (fireable offense No. 3), but rather as "the struggle to gain the support of the (Afghan) people," (fireable offense No. 4), he writes that we must "connect with the people" — the same "people," he acknowledges, who "can often change sides and provide tacit or real support to the insurgents" (fireable offense No. 5).

Turning battle-hardened Marines into Miss Congenialities who "must be seen as guests of the Afghan people" doesn't mean our men have to wear swimsuits, but they do have to take off their armor (fireable offense No. 6). "Preoccupied with protection of our own forces," McChrystal writes, "we have operated in a manner that distances us — physically and psychologically — from the people we seek to protect."

Frankly, McChrystal is "pre-occupied" with what he calls "population protection" in a manner that "distances" him — psychologically and emotionally — from the men and women under his command (fireable offense No. 7).

That a general could write so disparagingly of the means to preserve his soldiers at least to fight another day is despicable. But this is what zealots do. They serve theories, not men; they see visions, not reality. And that theory, that vision is akin to the familiar Marxist notion, likely imbibed during PC school days, that denies that identity, religion and culture matter. In the resulting tunnel vision, the so-called hearts-and-minds strategy looks like a winner.

This is the underlying basis of the counterinsurgency warfare now in vogue. "Hearts and minds" is not only the flawed rationale behind "nation-building," it also inspires the restrictive rules of engagement finally causing unease at home. This strategy — now framed as "the battle for the support of the (Afghan) people" — must be junked as a fraud if our military is ever to be used effectively and appropriately.

Remember, Iraq was a "hearts and minds" war, too. Early on, Gen. David Petraeus ordered signs posted in every barracks asking: "What Have You Done to Win Iraqi Hearts and Minds Today?"

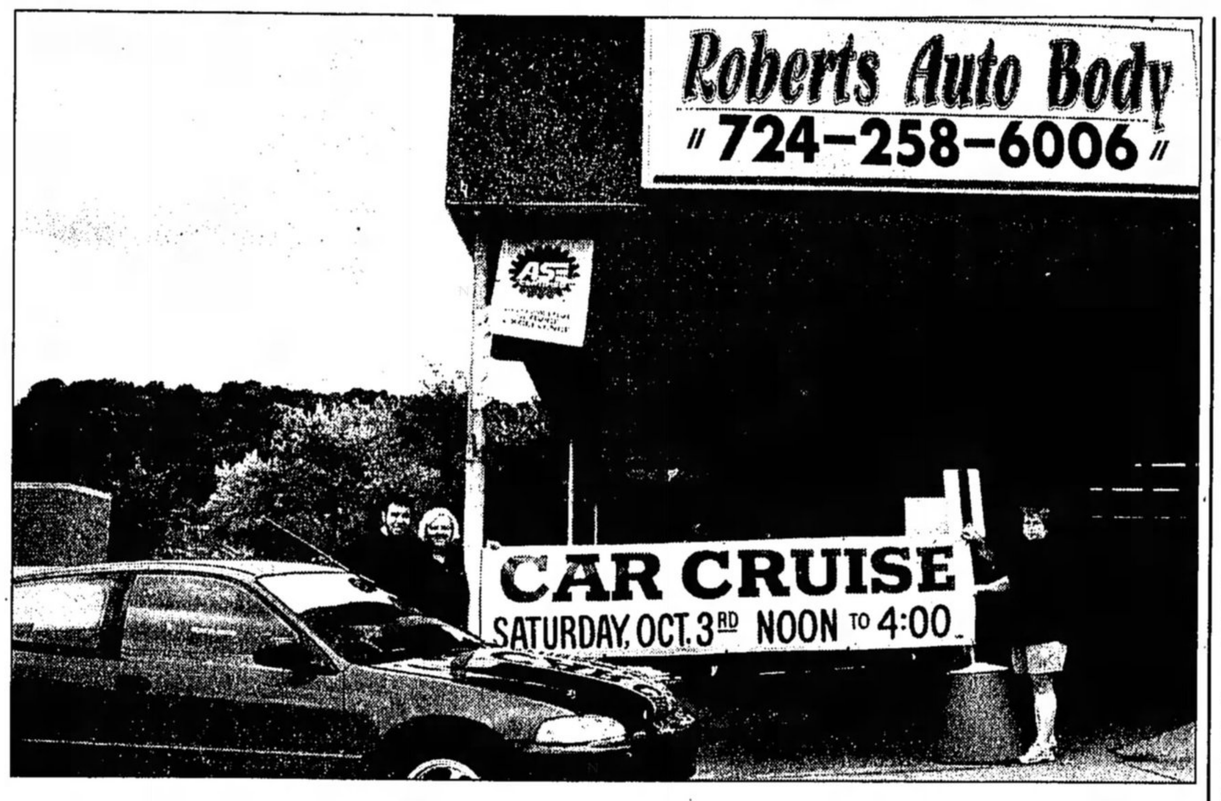
Many years, billions and casualties later, behold OPEC-participating, Israel-boycotting, Hezbollah-supporting Iraq. Does it count as a "hearts and minds" victory? The "ungrateful volcano," as Churchill called it, never let us fill up a humvee for free, and even after everything we've put into the country doesn't grant us staging rights for an attack on Iran (or anywhere else).

The zealots call that success, and want to repeat it in Afghanistan. But any more such "success" will break us completely.

Still, the war goes on, and far from Afghanistan. Jihadists learned from the Taliban rout not to rely on one safe haven, "creating many safe havens, one to replace the other," as Jamestown Foundation analyst Murad Batal Al-shishani puts it. Besides the Af-Pak region, he writes, varying jihadist presences exist in regions including Yemen, Somalia, Central Asia, Lebanon and, yes, even Iraq. Plus, I would add, the leading cities of Europe and the United States.

For this global war, we not only need a new general, we need a completely fresh re-assessment.

NEWS



Jim Ference/The Valley Independent

Neil Roberts, left, Diane M. Roberts, second from left, and Joanne Kushnar unveil a promotional sign advertising the car cruise that Roberts Auto Body, of Monongahela, will sponsor noon to 4 p.m. Saturday for the benefit of the local food bank. There will be a $5 entry fee for vehicles, but no charge for spectators. Food and entertainment will be available.

Jim Ference/The Valley Independent

Representatives of the '60s-'70s oldies high school reunion committee distribute three $1,000 checks representing the proceeds from a recent dance to Donora-based organizations. Principals are, from left, Ellen Durka, president of the Donora Rotary Club; reunion committee member Terry Perrotta; John Cupper, president of the Donora Chamber of Commerce; reunion committee member Rick Ghilani, and Casey J. Perrotta, of the Donora Volunteer Fire Department.

Stahlstown company appeals ruling on mine near Ohiopyle

Fayette County Zoning Hearing Board denied the firm permission to operate a strip mine near popular state park.

By LIZ ZEMBA
For The Valley Independent
lzemba@tribweb.com

A Stahlstown mining company has appealed a zoning decision that denied it permission to operate a strip mine near Ohiopyle State Park in Fayette County.

The county Zoning Hearing Board last month denied Amerikohl Mining Inc.'s request for a special exception for a 214-acre surface mine along Camp Carmel Road in Dunbar Township.

The company wants to mine the property, owned by Louis and Charles Curry of Uniontown and John M. Heath of Belle Mead, N.J., for two years.

In denying the special exception, the board cited its potentially negative impact on Ohiopyle State Park, including the possibility that flying debris from blasting operations could threaten users of a nearby bike trail.

Listed among the board's other concerns, outlined in its ruling, were the mine's potential impact on fish and wildlife, waterways and tourism.

During three public hearings on the proposed mine, opponents said they feared the strip mine would be located as close as 1,000 feet from the Great Allegheny Passage bike trail and would be detrimental to tourism at Ohiopyle, which draws more than 1 million visitors annually.

In an appeal filed last week with the Fayette County Prothonotary's Office, Amerikohl has asked a judge to reverse the zoning board's decision and grant the special exception. As an alternative, Amerikohl wants a judge to send the case back to the zoning board so that Amerikohl can present additional evidence in its favor.

Amerikohl claims in its appeal that the board erred in finding that the mining company "failed to meet the burden of proof and that the proposed surface mining operation has the potential to adversely impact the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the adjoining and surrounding area."

Through its attorney, Mark Mehalov of Uniontown, Amerikohl asserts it should be granted the special exception because it has "sufficiently established" that it is entitled to one.

Jim Killinger, chairman of the zoning board, declined comment yesterday because he said he has not seen the appeal.

Palmer due Congressional Gold Medal

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Arnold Palmer is going back to the White House to meet another president and collect another medal.

Palmer said Tuesday that he has been selected to receive a Congressional Gold Medal - an honor that has been around since the American Revolution and recognizes distinguished achievements and contributions.

Beyond his seven major championships, Palmer used his charisma and hard-charging style to make an elite sport popular with the masses. In golf circles, he is known simply as "The King."

Palmer was scheduled to go to the White House on Wednesday, where President Barack Obama was to sign the Arnold Palmer Gold Medal Act.

The golfing great also received the National Sports Award from former President Bill Clinton in 1993, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom from former President George W. Bush in 2004.

Palmer is the second golfer to receive the Congressional Gold Medal, which must be co-sponsored by two-thirds of the House and Senate. Byron Nelson received the medal short after his death in 2006. The medal has been presented 141 times, the first one to George Washington in 1776.

"I didn't know George Washington," Palmer said with a grin.

"But if I did, I would shake his hand and say, 'You're the first, and I won't be the last.'"

The medal caps a big month for Palmer, who turned 80 on Sept. 10 and had a birthday party that stretched out over two weeks.

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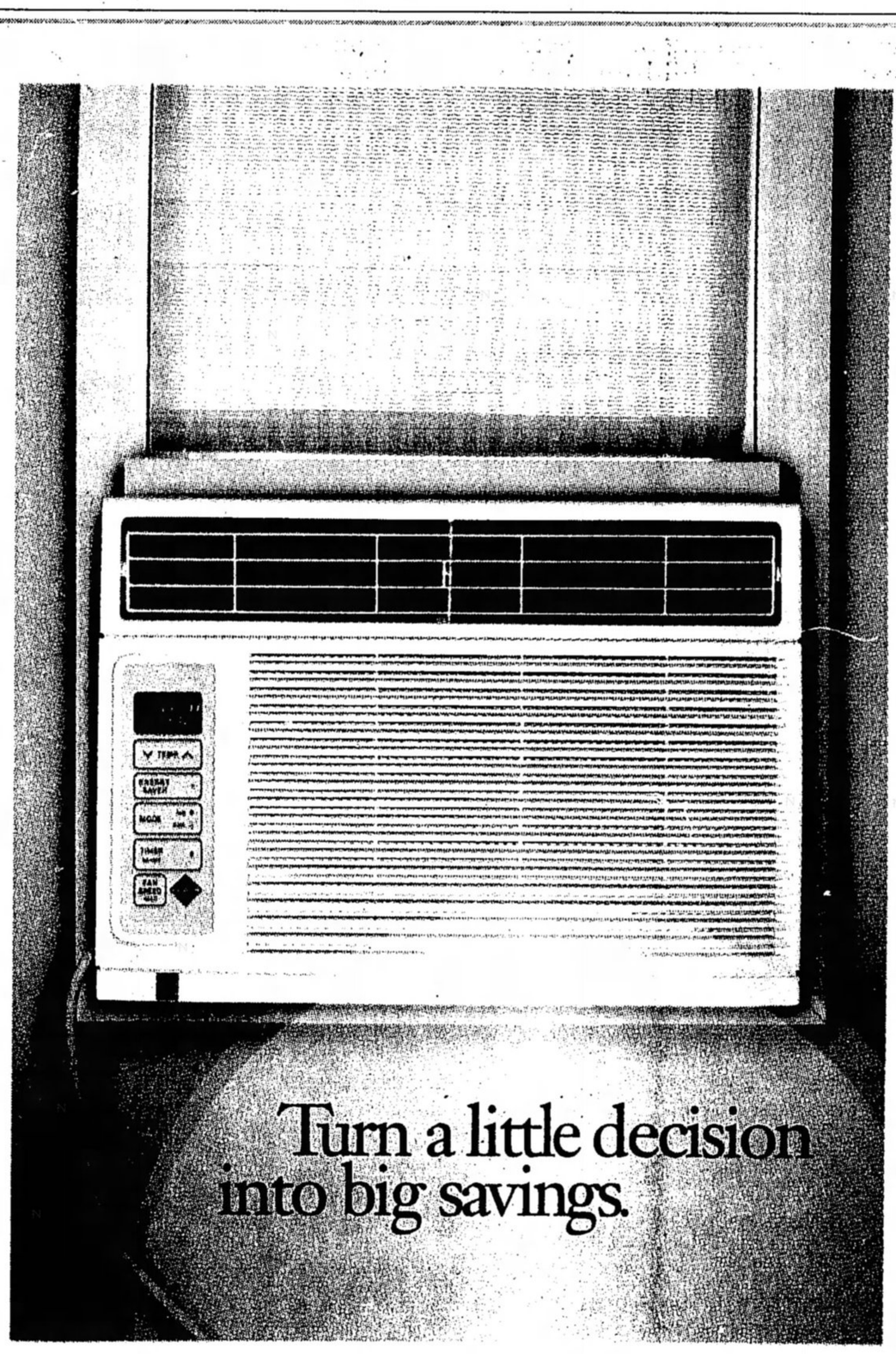

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STATE NEWS

House Democrats voice complaints about budget

Deal Gov. Ed Rendell hammered out with legislative leaders could be falling apart.

By MARK SCOLFORO
Associated Press Writer

HARRISBURG — A deal to end Pennsylvania's state budget impasse ran into resistance from Democrats in the state House Tuesday, raising fresh doubts about whether it can attract enough votes to pass.

Majority Leader Todd Eachus, D-Luzerne, said after a four-hour closed-door caucus meeting in the state Capitol that he would bring up a bill to tax the extraction of natural gas, an unusual move given that such a tax was not a part of the deal he announced more than a week ago with Gov. Ed Rendell and the state Senate.

Rank-and-file House Democrats told leaders they opposed critical pieces of that 11-day-old deal, including subjecting certain arts events to the state sales tax, expanding gas drilling on state land and taxing small games of chance.

"There are concerns about the revenue concepts that have been put on the table in our negotiations, and I think what we're doing is we're working through those issues with our members," Eachus said.

"These issues that relate to the concerns of Democratic members in the majority have to be addressed," he added.

It was unclear how many members might vote against the overall budget based on their objections to specific elements of the multipart deal, but any defections are a problem for House Democrats. They hold 104 seats and need 102 votes to pass the budget, while their Republican counterparts are nearly uniform in their opposition.

"I think the small games of chance is in trouble, that's for sure," said Rep. Nick Kotik, D-Allegheny, who earlier this year helped kill a proposal to increase the personal income tax that Rendell supported. He said considering a natural gas extraction tax was "foolhardy" in the face of Senate Republican opposition.

House Finance Committee chairman Dave Levdansky, D-Allegheny, said there was "significant across-the-board concern amongst the rank-and-file." He said there was a consensus in his caucus that a gas extraction tax and additional levies on other tobacco products were preferable.

Gov. Ed Rendell

Rendell, a Democrat, said Monday he wanted a budget on his desk by the end of this weekend.

But details remain to be sorted out, and Eachus said the governor's timetable did not consider legislative rules and procedures.

"We're hoping that we can try and move forward into the weekend and make real progress," Eachus said.

Local 'tea party' folks want budget re-visited

Small Westmoreland County group seeks a spending plan with no tax increases.

By BRAD BUMSTED
For The Valley Independent
bbumsted@tribweb.com

HARRISBURG — While legislative leaders were trying to sell a $27.9 billion budget proposal to rank-and-file members, five "tea party" folks from Westmoreland County embarked on a lonely mission Tuesday at the state Capitol.

Their message: Cut spending and build a budget without tax increases.

They lobbied lawmakers to reject an agreement legislators are considering and start over, even if that means hardship by extending an impasse that has dragged for 92 days.

"They're not listening to us," said Karen Kiefer, a Scottdale attorney.

The agreement, which the Legislature might vote on this weekend, includes taxing social clubs and fire halls with liquor licenses that offer small games of chance; applying the sales tax to music, theater, museum and dance performance admissions; and halting the scheduled phase-out of the capital stock and franchise tax on business assets.

"Reduce spending. No new taxes," said Tom Altman of Youngwood.

The "tea party" visitors said they received a cool, sometimes hostile, reception in legislative offices and the governor's office.

"We all feel like we're not heard, and don't even matter," said Clair LeJeune Kemp, an equine specialist and business owner in Mt. Pleasant.

Although Republicans declare victory for blocking tax increases on sales or income, Kiefer said, "They haven't avoided anything. They're just taking it out of someone else's pocket."

"We're really disappointed ACORN gets to keep its funding while we're in a budget crisis," said Philip Haddad, co-owner of a Scottdale coffee shop.

He was referring to the Association of Community Organizers for Reform Now, which received almost $200,000 in state money over the past few years. ACORN volunteers have been accused of voter fraud in several jurisdictions, including Allegheny County.

ACORN's funding is symbolic of the problems in Harrisburg, Haddad said.

"We need a significant decrease in taxes to keep jobs in Pennsylvania," Altman said.

It would be better to fix budget problems now, she said, even if that means further delay in state funding to day care and pre-K groups, which have not received state money during the budget impasse.

"This nanny state mentality of government has got to stop," Kiefer said.

Kiefer said the most attractive budget proposal was a House Republican plan that did not include new taxes and would have cut spending by 12 percent for most agencies. The plan never got to a vote.

Impasse (FROM PAGE ONE)

Wheatley and Daley did not respond to requests for comment.

"I believe in public service, not public slavery," Mustio said. He said he needs reimbursement for hotels and meals while in Harrisburg.

Mustio said he hasn't accepted a paycheck during the budget dispute and doesn't utilize a state-paid car or cell phone.

"I feel uncomfortable taking a paycheck when people are losing their jobs because of the budget," he said.

Pennsylvania, the only state without a budget, hits its 92nd day today without an approved spending plan.

Kathy King, 60, of McCandless, said she agrees with bills that have been proposed to prevent legislators from collecting salaries or per diems past the July 1 budget deadline. But she said such legislation isn't likely to win approval.

"They're never going to hurt themselves," she said. "They're going to make themselves accountable at voting time."

Eliminating per diems when lawmakers can't reach a budget agreement "might give them incentive to get it done," said Don Thomson, of North Huntingdon, chairman of the Westmoreland County Conservative Coalition. "They're getting plenty in their regular ($78,315) salary. They're working overtime, they might say, but this thing got out of hand."

The taxpayers' tab for per diems will continue to climb. Records reviewed by the Tribune-Review don't include September, and the Legislature is embarking on a final push to approve the budget, meaning lawmakers likely will remain in session through this weekend.

The House spent $466,895 on per diems and the Senate spent $66,638 during the two months. The average per diem payment to House members for July and August was $3,112. In the Senate, it was $1,959.

"I never take them," said Sen. Kim Ward, R-Hempfield Township, who said she claims actual reimbursement for a $62 hotel room and mileage but no meals.

"I ran on a platform of accountability and being careful with tax dollars," Ward said. "I wanted to live up to those words. Don't let anyone kid you; you don't have to buy a meal in Harrisburg."

Brett Marcy, a spokesman for Eachus, defended the payments as a cost of getting the budget done.

"These have been difficult times for all Pennsylvanians, but Rep. Eachus and House Democrats refuse to give up until the commonwealth has a fiscally responsible budget that remembers those who need help the most," Marcy said. "We're happy to report that we're very close to finalizing that budget. The per diems were reimbursements for expenses incurred during the course of that work."

Rendell said he wants the Legislature to approve the budget by Sunday. A $3.2 billion deficit and differences over taxes and spending caused the impasse.

Rep. Mike Reese, R-Mt. Pleasant, collected $1,562 in per diems using a lower rate, $143 per day. On three days when he didn't stay overnight, he charged $44.

"I'm not a rich guy," Reese said. "I don't think getting reimbursed for hotel and food is ridiculous. I take the lower amount. To me, that's more than enough to cover the expense. Some days, I don't put anything in.

"I know per diems are kind of a politically hot topic, perhaps, because people haven't used them the way they are supposed to use them," Reese said. "You shouldn't profit from them."

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Shut out in Chicago

The Pirates managed just five hits Tuesday in a 6-0 loss to the Cubs. **3B**

Valley SPORTS

Craft of the Week

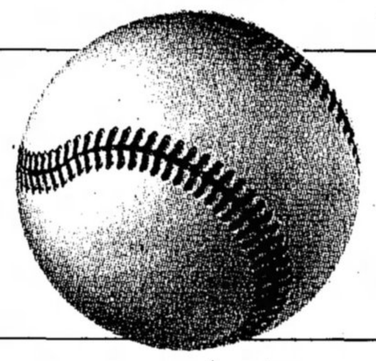
"Weekend Quilted Projects" removes the problem of unfinished quilts. **6B**

Leps knock off TJ

Mark Tomich provided all the game's offense with two goals in Belle Vernon Area's win over Thomas Jefferson. **3B**

Sports Trivia

Which former Belle Vernon Area High gridder is on the San Diego Chargers' coaching staff? **3B**



Last night's score

Philadelphia 7, Houston 4
Washington 4, N.Y. Mets 3
Florida 5, Atlanta 4
Cincinnati 7, St. Louis 2
Colorado 7, Milwaukee 5, 11 innings
San Diego 3, L.A. Dodgers 1

Brian **HERMAN**

Schoolboys go against Penguins and Pitt

High school football around here on the first Friday night in October usually gets the spotlight all to itself.

That won't be the case this year.

While the Tri-County South Conference showdown at Monessen's Memorial Stadium between the Greyhounds and defending champion Beth-Center and the first game on California High's new field are the big area stories Friday, they will be getting some stiff competition.

Scheduled the same day are the defending Stanley Cup champion Pittsburgh Penguins' regular season opener at home against the New York Rangers and Pitt's Big East lidlifter at Louisville.

With both the Penguins and Pitt contests being televised, it will be interesting to see the attendance for all the scholastic games.

The Pens start at 7:30 p.m. and Pitt a half hour later.

■ It shouldn't be surprising if Pittsburgh Steelers coach Mike Tomlin is a little uptight these days with his team off to a 1-2 start.

If you have a short memory, Tomlin started out 3-0 in his rookie campaign and was 4-1 before losing his second game.

Last year the Steelers opened 2-0 and were 5-1 before suffering their second defeat.

I thought Limas Sweed would be the next Plaxico Burress when it came to being a pass receiving threat. I think I was wrong.

Speaking of misjudgements, how about the Steeler bringing back 225-pounder Carey Davis as fullback after placing rookie bust Frank Summers on injured reserve with a "mysterious" back problem.

Davis is supposed to be the answer for the Steelers' short-yardage problems.

Ironically, Davis has never scored a touchdown in his Steelers career, which covers two seasons and 30 games.

For the record, Davis has carried the ball 29 times for 103 yards, with his longest gain being 12 yards.

Anyone else surprised that running back Isaac Redman, who starred during the preseason, was left on the practice squad?

■ What were the odds of Pittsburgh Pirates manager John Russell drawing the wrath of the fans at the team's last game of the season at PNC park?

It happened when he pulled starting pitcher Zach Duke after giving up a run in the ninth inning with two outs and the Pirates up 11-1 on the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Speaking of the Pirates, I'm not looking for them to end their losing ways in 2010 or 2011.

■ And thanks to Shirley Jones, of Carroll Township, who says wearing a halo too tight gives others a headache!

Sweed dropping

Receiver may be deactivated after Sunday's butterfingers performance.

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Pittsburgh Steelers receiver Limas Sweed may have dropped his way onto the bench.

Pittsburgh coach Mike Tomlin said Tuesday he may deactivate Sweed, the team's second-round pick last year, for Sunday night's game against the San Diego Chargers (2-1).

"Absolutely," Tomlin said at his weekly news conference when asked if he was considering benching Sweed in favor of veteran Shaun McDonald.

Sweed had one catch for 5 yards and dropped a pass in the end zone in the third quarter on Sunday as the defending Super Bowl champions fell to 1-2 with a 23-20 loss to the Cincinnati Bengals (2-1). Sweed, who missed the previous game with a foot injury, has a history of dropped passes in his young career — most famously a drop while wide open during last season's AFC Championship game.

"Quite frankly, he's not catching the football when he's deep down the field," Tomlin said. "He's got some tape that shows that. He's got to shake that off. If and when he's given his next opportunity to make a similar play, he better make it."

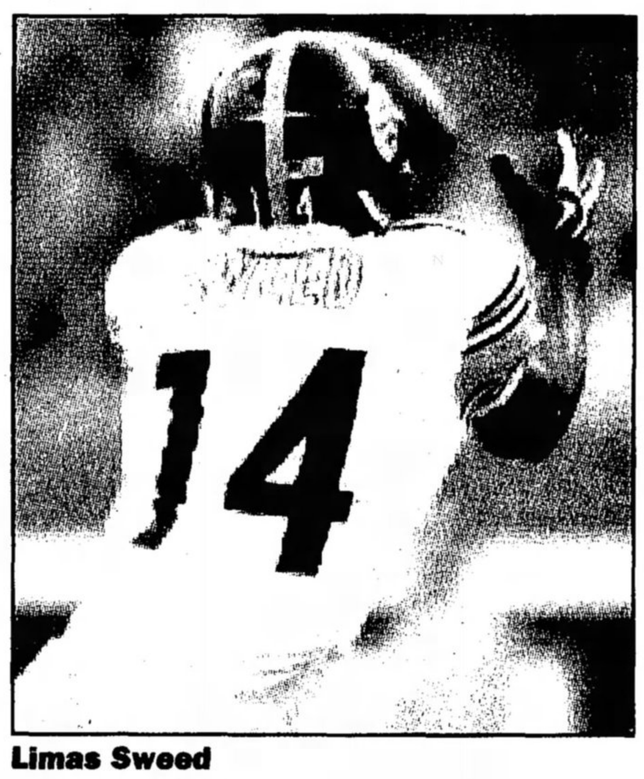
Tomlin said he was "concerned" about Sweed's inability to catch the ball when he's open. It is clear that rookie Mike Wallace, who is third on the team with 12 catches for 147 yards, has moved ahead of Sweed on the depth chart.

McDonald, a seven-year veteran, has 220 receptions for 2,490 yards and 11 touchdowns in 84 games with the St. Louis Rams and Detroit Lions, including 79 catches for 943 yards and six touchdowns with Detroit in 2007.

Another high draft pick from the Steelers' 2008 class who is not meeting expectations is running back Rashard Mendenhall. Mendenhall did not have a carry or a reception in Cincinnati after Tomlin said he had a poor week of practice, but Tomlin suggested he would be back as the No. 2 running back for this week's game.

"I don't have a doghouse," Tomlin said. "A doghouse is something you have when you let things stew and don't take action. He lacked a little detail in preparation last week ... Young guys have to earn their opportunities. They have to make coaches confident with their ability to execute details of their assignments. He didn't do that to my satisfaction last week and didn't get any playing time on offense as a result. I took action, but I don't take any baggage into this week."

Rookie Frank Summers has a back injury and was examined by doctors on Tuesday, and rookie tight end/H-back David Johnson sustained a high ankle sprain. Tomlin said Johnson will be evaluated throughout the week but that he could be out several weeks.



Limas Sweed

The Steelers re-signed fullback Carey Davis, who was cut late in the preseason. Davis was their starter at the position for much of 2007-08.

Tomlin said he "liked the progress" injured All-Pro safety Troy Polamalu is making in recovering from a torn medial collateral ligament in his left knee and said that starting running back Willie Parker has turf toe. Parker is expected to be fine this week but Polamalu is not expected back for at least another week.

Roethlisberger, linemen headed to 'Raw'

Steelers' quarterback will be a guest host of Monday's WWE program.

By SCOTT BROWN
For The Valley Independent

Steelers Notebook

Ben Roethlisberger will take a turn behind the microphone Monday.

The Pittsburgh Steelers' quarterback is slated to serve as a guest host for World Wrestling Entertainment's "Monday Night Raw" in Wilkes-Barre.

According to the WWE's Web site, Roethlisberger will take his offensive line with him to Wilkes-Barre.

Roethlisberger and a handful of other Steelers are fans of pro wrestling.

"I'm aware of it," Steelers coach Mike Tomlin said Tuesday when asked if he had to sign off on the endeavor. "I just don't have a comment at this time."

Roethlisberger's appearance on "Monday Night Raw" will come the day after the Steelers play a night game against the visiting San Diego Chargers.

"Next Monday is so far away right now I haven't even pondered that thought," Tomlin said.

■ Wide receiver Santonio Holmes had just one catch for 18 yards in a 23-20 loss to the Bengals on Sunday. But the Super Bowl MVP received high marks for his play from Tomlin after the third-year coach reviewed film of the game.

"I think it was one of the more physical games he's played since I've been here," Tomlin said. "I think he had four or five knockdown (blocks) in the football game. I was pleased with that. I don't worry about his numbers. I don't care who the ball goes to. I want it to go to the open guy, because the guys we put on the field are the guys we think are capable of helping us win."

■ Lawrence Timmons started at right inside linebacker against the Bengals and didn't appear to be hampered by the sprained ankle that had forced him to miss the season opener. Tomlin, however, said the Bengals' ability to neutralize Timmons when he blitzed played a part in their beating the Steelers in Cincinnati for the first time since 2001.

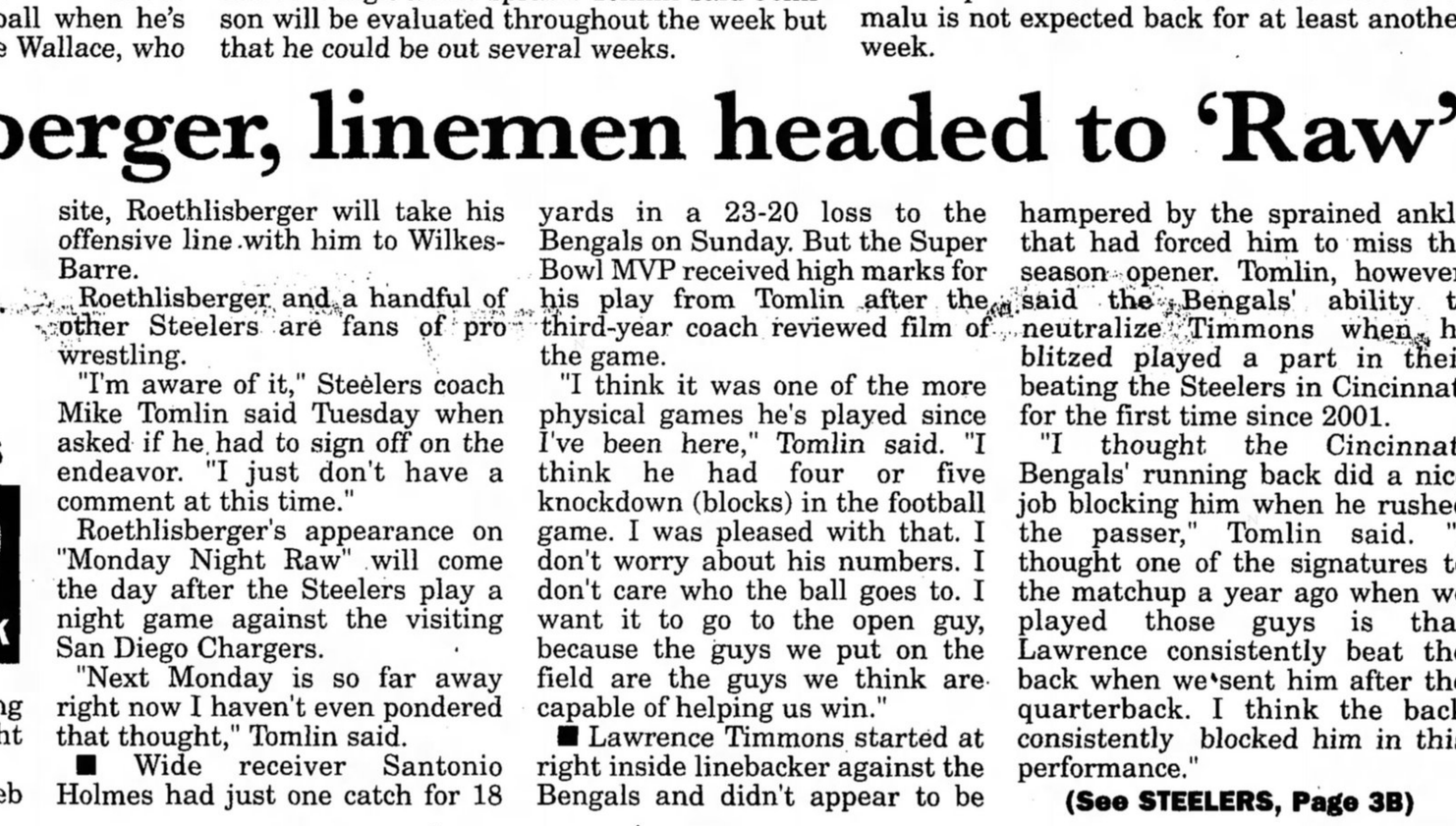
"I thought the Cincinnati Bengals' running back did a nice job blocking him when he rushed the passer," Tomlin said. "I thought one of the signatures to the matchup a year ago when we played those guys is that Lawrence consistently beat the back when we sent him after the quarterback. I think the back consistently blocked him in this performance."

(See STEELERS, Page 3B)

Cal's new field ready

California's new 1,500-seat multi-purpose stadium will have its first football game Friday when the Trojans host Mapletown at 7:30 p.m. in a Tri-County South Conference contest.

Jim Ference/ The Valley Independent



Chaz Palla/For The Valley Independent

Penguins captain Sidney Crosby models his new championship ring.

Pens try on new rings

By JOSH YOHE
For The Valley Independent

The Pittsburgh Penguins have a long history of showcasing some of the most flashy players in NHL history.

Now, they can showcase some flashy jewelry.

Penguins players and officials gathered Tuesday in a private ceremony at The LeMont restaurant on Mt. Washington.

The players showed off the enormous rings, expressing disbelief at how impressive they are. Each one is loaded with 167 diamonds, the player's name, an image of the Stanley Cup and the Penguins' logo.

"It's very impressive," captain Sidney Crosby said. "I probably won't wear it too often, but it's great."

The players were awarded the rings in numerical order, which forced superstars Crosby and Evgeni Malkin to wait until everyone else had received one.

"That drove me nuts," Crosby said. "But it was worth it."

Bill Guerin, who won a Stanley Cup with the New Jersey Devils in 1995, said there is no comparison between the rings.

"In today's day and age, size matters," he said. "Back then was a different time, a different era."

The gathering marked the final celebration in what has been a whirlwind offseason for the Penguins.

Although the players were thrilled with the ceremony, they are ready for the season to begin.

"Now it's time to get down to business," Guerin said.

Those who were members of last season's team but have moved on will receive their rings later this season.

Team owners Mario Lemieux and Ron Burkle and GM Ray Shero presented the players with the rings. Those three, along with coach Dan Bylsma, played a role in the ring design.

SPORTS

Major League Baseball

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	91	66	.580	—
Atlanta	86	71	.548	5
Florida	84	74	.532	7 1/2
New York	67	91	.424	24 1/2
Washington	54	103	.344	37

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-St. Louis	90	67	.573	—
Chicago	82	74	.526	7 1/2
Milwaukee	77	80	.490	13
Cincinnati	75	82	.478	15
Houston	73	84	.465	17
Pittsburgh	59	97	.378	30 1/2

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Los Angeles	93	65	.589	—
Colorado	89	68	.567	3 1/2
San Francisco	84	73	.535	8 1/2
San Diego	73	85	.462	20
Arizona	68	89	.433	24 1/2

x-clinched playoff berth
y-clinched division

Tuesday's Games

Philadelphia 7, Houston 4
Washington 4, N.Y. Mets 3
Florida 5, Atlanta 4
Cincinnati 7, St. Louis 2
Chicago Cubs 6, Pittsburgh 0
Colorado 7, Milwaukee 5, 11 innings
San Diego 3, L.A. Dodgers 1
San Francisco 8, Arizona 4

Today's Games

Pittsburgh (Morton 4-9) at Chicago Cubs (Lilly 12-8), 2:05 p.m., 1st game
N.Y. Mets (Redding 3-6) at Washington (Lannan 9-13), 4:35 p.m.
Houston (Moehler 8-11) at Philadelphia (P.Martinez 5-1), 7:05 p.m.
Florida (Nolasco 12-9) at Atlanta (J.Vazquez 15-9), 7:10 p.m.
St. Louis (Smoltz 1-2) at Cincinnati (Arroyo 14-13), 7:10 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Karstens 3-5) at Chicago Cubs (Zambrano 9-6), 8:05 p.m., 2nd game
Milwaukee (Suppan 7-11) at Colorado (Hammel 9-8), 8:40 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers (Garland 11-12) at San Diego (Cl.Richard 4-2), 10:05 p.m.
Arizona (Mulvey 0-2) at San Francisco (Penny 3-1), 10:15 p.m.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-New York	102	56	.646	—
z-Boston	91	66	.580	10 1/2
Tampa Bay	81	76	.516	20 1/2
Toronto	74	84	.468	28
Baltimore	60	97	.382	41 1/2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	84	73	.535	—
Minnesota	82	75	.522	2
Chicago	76	81	.484	8
Cleveland	64	92	.410	19 1/2
Kansas City	64	94	.405	20 1/2

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Los Angeles	93	64	.592	—
Texas	85	72	.541	8
Seattle	81	76	.516	12
Oakland	75	82	.478	18

y-clinched division
z-clinched wild card

Tuesday's Games

Minnesota 3, Detroit 2, 10 innings, 1st game
N.Y. Yankees 4, Kansas City 3
Detroit 6, Minnesota 5, 2nd game
Chicago White Sox at Cleveland, ppd., rain
Tampa Bay 3, Baltimore 1
Toronto 8, Boston 7
L.A. Angels 5, Texas 2
Seattle 6, Oakland 4

Today's Games

Chicago White Sox (C.Torres 1-1) at Cleveland (Carmona 4-12), 4:05 p.m., 1st game
Kansas City (Tejeda 4-2) at N.Y. Yankees (Chamberlain 9-6), 7:05 p.m.
Minnesota (Pavano 13-11) at Detroit (Bonine 0-1), 7:05 p.m.
Baltimore (Da.Hernandez 4-9) at Tampa Bay (J.Shields 10-12), 7:08 p.m.
Toronto (Halladay 16-10) at Boston (Wakefield 11-4), 7:10 p.m.
Chicago White Sox (Buehrle 12-10) at Cleveland (Masterson 4-9), 7:35 p.m., 2nd game
Texas (Holland 8-12) at L.A. Angels (Jer.Weaver 15-8), 10:05 p.m.
Oakland (Mortensen 2-3) at Seattle (Morrow 1-4), 10:10 p.m.

Pirates boxscore

PITTSBURGH	ab	r	h	bi	CHICAGO	ab	r	h	bi
AMcCt cf	4	0	0	0	Theriot ss	1	2	1	0
AnLRc 3b	4	0	2	0	Fukdm rf	5	2	1	0
GJones 1b	4	0	0	0	D.Lee 1b	2	0	1	2
Doumit c	3	0	0	0	Scales lf	0	0	0	0
Milledg lf	4	0	0	0	MHffpr lf-1b	4	1	1	2
Moss rf	3	0	0	0	JeBakr 3b	4	0	1	2
DlwYn 2b	3	0	2	0	Fontent 2b	4	0	0	0
L.Cruz ss	3	0	0	0	Soto c	3	0	0	0
K.Hart p	1	0	0	0	Fuld cf	4	1	3	0
Jarmll ph	1	0	0	0	Dmpstr p	4	0	0	0
Dumtrt p	0	0	0	0					
Btchck p	0	0	0	0					
NWalkr ph	1	0	1	0					
Hacker p	0	0	0	0					
Totals	31	0	5	0	Totals	31	6	8	6

Pittsburgh	000	000	000 — 0
Chicago	300	300	00x — 6

E—L.Cruz (2), Delw.Young (6), K.Hart (1). DP—Pittsburgh 3, Chicago 1. LOB—Pittsburgh 6, Chicago 8. 2B—An.LaRoche 2 (28), N.Walker (1), Fukudome (37), Je.Baker (13), Fuld (5). CS—Theriot 2 (9).

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Pittsburgh						
K.Hart L,4-9	4	6	6	3	4	5
Dumatrait	2	1	0	0	2	1
Bootcheck	1	0	0	0	0	1
Hacker	1	1	0	0	1	0
Chicago						
Dempster W,11-8	9	5	0	0	2	6

Umpires—Home, Bill Welke; First, James Hoye; Second, Tim Welke; Third, Jim Wolf. T—2:34. A—35,308 (41,210).

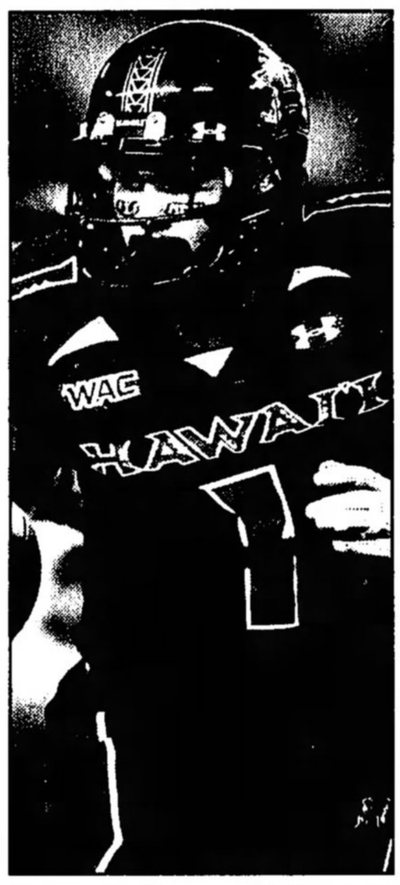
PSAC football

West Division

	Conf. W	Conf. L	Overall W	Overall L
Edinboro	2	0	4	1
California	2	0	3	2
Mercyhurst	2	0	3	2
Slippery Rock	1	1	4	1
Clarion	1	1	2	3
Indiana	0	2	3	2
Gannon	0	2	2	3
Lock Haven	0	2	0	4

Saturday

1 p.m. - California at Indiana
2 p.m. - Gannon at Clarion; Mercyhurst at Slippery Rock; Lock Haven at Edinboro.



Greg Salas and Hawaii will face Louisiana Tech at 8 p.m. on ESPN2.

Sports dial

Today

Television

2:05 p.m. - WGN - Pittsburgh at Chicago Cubs, baseball.
4:30 p.m. - WCUP - High school roundup, football, tape.
7:05 p.m. - ESPN - Minnesota at Detroit, baseball.
8 p.m. - ESPN2 - Hawaii at Louisiana Tech, college football.
8:05 p.m. - Fox Sports - Pittsburgh at Chicago Cubs, baseball.
10:30 p.m. - WCUP - High school roundup, football, tape.

Radio

2:05 p.m. - WPGB (104.7 FM) - Pittsburgh at Chicago Cubs, baseball.
8:05 p.m. - WPGB (104.7 FM) - Pittsburgh at Chicago Cubs, baseball.

High school football

Class AAA

Big Seven Conference

	League W	League L	Overall W	Overall L
Thomas Jefferson	2	0	4	0
Chartiers Valley	2	0	4	0
West Mifflin	1	1	3	1
Trinity	1	1	1	3
Ringgold	0	1	2	2
Belle Vernon Area	0	1	2	2
Elizabeth Forward	0	2	2	2

Friday

Ringgold at Elizabeth Forward
West Mifflin at Belle Vernon Area
Trinity at Chartiers Valley
Thomas Jefferson at Laurel Highlands

Keystone Conference

	Con. W	Con. L	Overall W	Overall L
Uniontown	2	0	3	1
Laurel Highlands	2	0	2	2
Greensburg Salem	1	0	3	1
Yough	1	1	1	3
Southmoreland	0	1	0	4
Albert Gallatin	0	2	1	3
Derry	0	2	0	4

Friday

Yough at Albert Gallatin
S'moreland at Derry
Uniontown at Grb. Salem
Thomas Jefferson at Laurel Highlands

Class AA

Interstate Conference

	Con. W	Con. L	Overall W	Overall L
Jeannette	4	0	4	0
Mt. Pleasant	4	0	4	0
Charleroi	3	1	3	1
McGuffey	3	1	3	1
Greensburg Central	2	2	2	2
Washington	2	2	2	2
Waynesburg	1	3	1	3
Brownsville	1	3	1	3
Washington	2	2	2	2
South Allegheny	0	4	0	4
East Allegheny	0	4	0	4

Friday

Charleroi at Jeannette
Washington at Brownsville
East Allegheny at Mt. Pleasant
South Allegheny at McGuffey
Grb. Cenral at Waynesburg

Class A

Tri-County South

	Con. W	Con. L	Overall W	Overall L
Beth-Center	2	0	3	1
Monessen	2	0	2	2
California	2	0	3	1
Jefferson-Morgan	1	1	3	1
Carmichaels	1	1	1	3
Geibel	0	2	1	3
West Greene	0	2	0	4
Mapletown	0	2	0	4

Friday

Beth-Center at Monessen
Mapletown at California
Jeff-Morgan at Carmichaels
Geibel at West Greene

Black Hills Conference

	Con. W	Con. L	Overall W	Overall L
Fort Cherry	2	0	4	0
Clairton	2	0	3	1
Chartiers-Houston	1	1	3	1
Serra	1	1	3	1
Frazier	1	1	2	2
Burgettstown	1	1	2	2
Bentworth	0	2	1	3
Avella	0	2	1	3

Friday

Frazier at Chartiers-Houston
Serra at Avella
Clairton at Fort Cherry

Saturday

Bentworth at Burgettsown, 1:30 p.m.

WNBA Finals

Tuesday

Game 1

Tuesday, Sept. 29: Phoenix 120, Indiana 116, OT. Phoenix leads series 1-0

Thursday

Indiana at Phoenix, 9 p.m.

Sunday

Phoenix at Indiana, 4 p.m.

x-Wednesday, Oct. 7

Phoenix at Indiana, 7:30 p.m.

x-Friday, Oct. 9

Indiana at Phoenix, 9 p.m.

Boys' soccer standings

Class AAA

Section 5

	Sec. W	Sec. L	Sec. T	Overall W	Overall L	Overall T
Peters Township	5	0	0	6	1	1
Canon-McMillan	3	2	0	7	3	0
Upper St. Clair	4	1	0	7	1	1
Ringgold	2	3	0	7	3	0
Moon	1	4	0	2	5	1
Trinity	0	5	0	2	9	0

Thursday

Upper St. Clair at Ringgold
Cann-McMilan at Trinity
Moon at Peters Township

Class AA

Section 3

	Sec. W	Sec. L	Sec. T	Overall W	Overall L	Overall T
South Park	6	0	0	7	1	0
S'moreland	6	1	0	6	3	0
Belle Vernon Area	5	2	1	8	3	1
Thomas Jefferson	3	3	1	4	5	1
Elizabeth Forward	3	4	0	5	6	0
Steel Valley	2	4	0	3	5	0
Uniontown	1	4	0	1	7	0
Yough	0	8	0	0	8	0

Tuesday

BV Area 2, Thomas Jefferson 0
S'moreland 7, Elizabeth 1
Steel Valley 9, Yough 0

Thursday

Uniontown at BV Area
Steel Valley at Elizabeth
S'moreland at South Park
Thomas Jefferson at Yough

Class A

Section 1

	Sec. W	Sec. L	Sec. T	Overall W	Overall L	Overall T
Grb. Central	8	0	0	8	1	0
Trinity Christian	5	3	0	6	3	0
Serra	5	2	0	8	2	0
Geibel	4	3	0	6	3	0
California	3	4	1	5	6	1
Winchester Thurs.	2	4	1	2	5	1
South Allegheny	1	4	0	1	6	0
Brownsville	0	8	0	0	11	0

Tuesday

California 8, Brownsville 2
Grb. Central 3, Trinity Christian 1
Serra 4, Winchester Thurston 3

Thursday

California at Geibel
South Allegheny at Grb. Central
Trinity Christian at Serra
Winchester Thurston at Brownsville

Section 4

	Sec. W	Sec. L	Sec. T	Overall W	Overall L	Overall T
Carlynton	6	0	1	8	1	1
Bentworth	5	1	1	5	5	1
Charleroi	4	2	0	7	3	0
C-Houston	4	3	0	4	7	1
Monessen	2	4	1	4	5	1
Brentwood	1	5	1	2	6	1
Beth-Center	0	7	0	3	7	0

Tuesday

Brentwood 3, Monessen 3
Bentworth 1, Carlynton 1
C-Houston 7, Beth-Center 3

Thursday

Monessen at Bentworth
Charleroi at Brentwood
Carlynton at C-Houston

Girls' soccer standings

Class AAA

Section 5

	League W	League L	League T	Overall W	Overall L	Overall T
Canon-McMillan	5	1	0	8	3	0
Upper St. Clair	5	1	0	5	3	0
Mt. Lebanon	4	1	0	6	3	0
Trinity	2	4	0	4	5	0
Ringgold	2	4	0	4	6	0
Elizabeth Forward	2	4	0	3	7	0
West Mifflin	0	5	0	1	7	0

Today

Canon-McMillan at Ringgold
Trinity at Mt. Lebanon
West Mifflin at Upper St. Clair

Section 6

	Sec. W	Sec. L	Sec. T	Overall W	Overall L	Overall T
Belle Vernon Area	6	0	1	8	2	1
S'moreland	5	0	1	5	1	1
Waynesburg	4	3	0	5	5	0
Connellsville	4	3	0	5	6	0
Yough	3	4	0	5	5	0
Laurel Highlands	3	4	0	4	6	0
Uniontown	1	5	0	2	6	0
Albert Gallatin	0	7	0	0	9	0

Today

BV Area at Laurel Highlands
Albert Gallatin at Yough
Uniontown at Connellsville
Waynesburg at S'moreland

Class AA

Section 1

	Sec. W	Sec. L	Sec. T	Overall W	Overall L	Overall T
South Park	6	0	0	8	1	0
South Fayette	5	1	0	6	2	1
McGuffey	4	2	0	5	4	0
Bentworth	3	3	0	6	4	0
Charleroi	2	4	0	5	6	0
C-Houston	1	5	0	1	9	0
Beth-Center	0	6	0	2	7	0

Today

Charleroi at Beth-Center
Bentworth at McGuffey
C-Houston at South Park

Section 6

	Sec. W	Sec. L	Sec. T	Overall W	Overall L	Overall T
Geibel	5	1	0	7	3	0
Mt. Pleasant	5	1	0	7	2	0
Grb. Central	5	1	0	9	2	1
Jeannette	2	3	1	3	5	2
St. Joseph	1	4	0	2	6	0
Monessen	1	4	1	3	5	1
East Allegheny	0	5	0	1	6	0

Today

St. Joseph at Monessen
Grb. Central at Mt. Pleasant
East Allegheny at Jeannette

MLS standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Columbus	12	4	10	46	40	28
Chicago	10	6	11	41	38	33
New England	10	8	7	37	31	34
D.C.	8	7	12	36	40	40
Toronto FC	9	10	8	35	35	40
Kansas City	8	11	7	31	28	34
New York	4	17	6	18	22	44

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Houston	12	8	7	43	35	26
Los Angeles	10	6	11	41	33	31
Colorado	10	8	9	39	40	32
Seattle	9	7	11	38	32	26
Chivas USA	11	9	5	38	26	25
Real SaltLake	9	11	7	34	38	34
FC Dallas	8	12	6	30	44	43
San Jose	6	12	7	25	31	43

Today

New England at FC Dallas, 7 p.m.

NFL standings

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Jets	3	0	0	1.000	64	33
New England	2	1	0	.667	60	50
Buffalo	1	2	0	.333	64	72
Miami	0	3	0	.000	43	69

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Indianapolis	3	0	0	1.000	72	45
Jacksonville	1	2	0	.333	60	69
Houston	1	2	0	.333	65	86
Tennessee	0	3	0	.000	58	71

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	3	0	0	1.000	103	53
Cincinnati	2	1	0	.667	61	56
Pittsburgh	1	2	0	.333	47	50
Cleveland	0	3	0	.000	29	95

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Denver	3	0	0	1.000	62	16
San Diego	2	1	0	.667	73	64
Oakland	1	2	0	.333	36	57
Kansas City	0	3	0	.000	48	85

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	3	0	0	1.000	80	48
Dallas	2	1	0	.667	86	61
Philadelphia	2	1	0	.667	94	72
Washington	1	2	0	.333	40	49

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New Orleans	3	0	0	1.000	120	56
Atlanta	2	1	0	.667	57	53
Carolina	0	3	0	.000	37	87
Tampa Bay	0	3	0	.000	41	91

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Minnesota	3	0	0	1.000	88	57
Green Bay	2	1	0	.667	81	63
Chicago	2	1	0	.667	57	54
Detroit	1	2	0	.333	59	86

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
San Francisco	2	1	0	.667	67	53
Seattle	1	2	0	.333	57	48
Arizona	1	2	0	.333	57	68
St. Louis	0	3	0	.000	24	73

Sunday, Oct. 4

Detroit at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Oakland at Houston, 1 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Washington, 1 p.m.
Seattle at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Baltimore at New England, 1 p.m.
Cincinnati at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
Tennessee at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
Buffalo at Miami, 4:05 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at New Orleans, 4:05 p.m.
Dallas at Denver, 4:15 p.m.
St. Louis at San Francisco, 4:15 p.m.
San Diego at Pittsburgh, 8:20 p.m.
Open: Arizona, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Carolina

Monday, Oct. 5

Green Bay at Minnesota, 8:30 p.m.

Sports moves

BASEBALL

American League

BOSTON RED SOX—Purchased the contract of RHP Fernando Cabrera from Pawtucket (IL). Recalled 1B Aaron Bates from Pawtucket and placed him on the 60-day DL.

KANSAS CITY ROYALS—Recalled INF Tug Hulett from Omaha (PCL).

SEATTLE MARINERS—Activated 1B Russell Branyan from the 15-day DL.

National League

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS—Promoted Ron Watermon to director of public relations and civic affairs and Melody Yount manager of media relations and new media. Named Chris Tunno media relations specialist and Jared Odom direct sales representative.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

NFL—Suspended St. Louis LB David Vobora for four games for violating the league policy on performance enhancing substances.

CHICAGO BEARS—Signed LB Darrell McClover to a one-year contract. Waived CB DeAngelo Smith.

HOUSTON TEXANS—Waived RB Antone Smith from the practice squad.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS—Traded QB Tyler Thigpen to Miami for an undisclosed draft pick.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS—Waived C Kory Lichtensteiger. Signed C John Cooper from the practice squad. Released WR Nick Moore from the practice squad. Signed OT Patrick Brown and WR Vinny Perretta to the practice squad.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS—Placed OT Jammal Brown on injured reserve. Re-signed OL Nick Leckey.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES—Signed LB Jeremiah Trotter.

TENNESSEE TITANS—Placed P Craig Hentrich on injured reserve. Signed KR Mark Jones and S Kevin Kaesviharn. Released RB Chris Henry. Released RB Rodney Ferguson from the practice squad. Signed CB Cary Williams to the practice squad.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

ATLANTA THRASHERS—Agreed to terms with D Mark Popovic and F Maxim Afinogenov.

COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS—Placed F Fredrik Modin on injured reserve. Placed LW Alexandre Picard and D Mathieu Roy on waivers for the purpose of assignment to Syracuse (AHL). Returned LW Matt Calvert to Brandon (WHL). Released D Martin Skoula. Signed D David Liffiton and D Dylan Reese and assigned them to Syracuse.

EDMONTON OILERS—Assigned D Theo Peckham to Springfield (AHL). Waived LW Liam Reddox.

MINNESOTA WILD—Assigned RW Craig Weller to Houston (AHL). Placed C Benoit Pouliot and LW Derek Boogaard on injured reserve.

MONTREAL CANADIENS—Assigned F Ben Maxwell, D Mathieu Carle, D Yannick Weber, G Curtis Sanford and F Tom Pyatt to Hamilton (AHL).

NASHVILLE PREDATORS—Assigned F Triston Grant, F Peter Olvecky, D Alexander Sulzer and D Nolan Yonkman to Milwaukee (AHL).

NEW JERSEY DEVILS—Waived D Rob Davison, D Jay Leach and F Tim Sestito.

NEW YORK RANGERS—Assigned F Chris Chappell and D Tysen Dowzak to Charlotte (ECHL).

OTTAWA SENATORS—Assigned LW/D Christoph Schubert and D Brian Lee to Binghamton (AHL).

PHILADELPHIA FLYERS—Assigned F Jason Ward, F Lukas Kaspar, F David Laliberte and F Patrick Maroon to Adirondack (AHL). Returned D Joey Mormina on loan to Adirondack. Recalled G Johan Backlund from Adirondack.

PHOENIX COYOTES—Signed C Robert Lang to a one-year contract.

SAN JOSE SHARKS—Signed G Thomas Heemskerk.

TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING—Assigned F Adam Hall, F Ryan Craig and F Brandon Bochenski to Norfolk (AHL).

Latest Line

BEST BET: Arizona is 5-11 its last 16 games vs. a right-handed starter. The Diamondbacks are also 6-17 their last 23 road games and 17-36 the last 53 games vs. a team with a winning record. Take San Francisco over Arizona for another Best Bet winner.

NFL

Favorite	Points	Underdog
Sunday, Oct 4		
Week Four		
HOUSTON	9 1/2 (42)	Oakland
Tennessee	3 (41)	J'VILLE
N. ENGLAND	2 1/2 (44)	Baltimore
Cincinnati	5 1/2 (38)	CLEVELAND
NY Giants	9 (42)	KC
CHICAGO	10 (39)	Detroit
WASHINGTON	7 1/2 (37)	Tampa Bay
INDIANAPOLIS	7 1/2 (45)	Seattle
N. ORLEANS	6 1/2 (46)	NY Jets
Buffalo	2 1/2 (40)	MIAMI
SAN FRAN	10 (38)	St. Louis
Dallas	3 (45)	DENVER
PITTSBURGH	7 (43)	San Diego
Monday, Oct 5		
MINNESOTA	3 1/2 (46)	Green Bay

College Football

Favorite	Points	Underdog
LA TECH	5	Hawaii
Thursday, Oct 1		
W. VIRGINIA	17	Colorado
So. Miss	6 1/2	ALA-BIRM.
Friday, Oct 2		
Pittsburgh	6 1/2	LOUISVILLE
BYU	24	Utah St
Saturday, Oct 3		
South Florida	7	SYRACUSE
East Carolina	2 1/2	MARSHALL
PURDUE	6 1/2	Northwestern
MINNESOTA	2 1/2	Wisconsin
NC State	1	WAKE FOREST
Clemson	13 1/2	MARYLAND
N. CAROLINA	14	Virginia
Florida St	5	BOSTON COLL.
C. Michigan	8	BUFFALO
Toledo	6 1/2	BALL ST
Alabama	17	KENTUCKY
Mississippi	9 1/2	VANDERBILT
Cincinnati	28	MIAMI-OHIO
Temple	5	E. MICHIGAN
ARMY	6	Tulane
Virginia Tech	16 1/2	DUKE
NOTRE DAME	13	Washington
GEORGIA	2 1/2	Lsu
NAVY	3 1/2	Air Force
Georgia Tech	6	MISSISSIPPI ST
Oklahoma	7	MIAMI-FLORIDA
Penn St	6 1/2	ILLINOIS
MICHIGAN ST	1	Michigan
N. ILLINOIS	6 1/2	W. Michigan
BOWLING GR.	3	Ohio
NEVADA	3 1/2	Unlv
Colorado St	3 1/2	IDAHO
a-Iowa St	2 1/2	Kansas St
ARIZONA ST	5	Oregon St
OREGON	31	Washington St
BAYLOR	21 1/2	Kent St
C. FLORIDA	8	Memphis
STANFORD	6	Ucla
TEXAS TECH	36	New Mexico
Ohio St	16 1/2	INDIANA
Tulsa	14	RICE
b-Arkansas	1	Texas A&M
TENNESSEE	2	Auburn
Southern Cal	5	CALIFORNIA
TCU	28	Smu
SAN DIEGO ST	16 1/2	New Mexico St
Houston	16 1/2	TEXAS EL PASO
IOWA	21	Arkansas St
FLA ATLANTIC	3 1/2	Wyoming
UL-MONROE	4	Fla International

a-at Kansas City, MO.
b-at Arlington, TX.

Baseball

Favorite	Odds	Underdog
National League		
WASHINGTON	5 1/2-6 1/2	NY Mets
PHILADELPHIA	13-15	Houston
ATLANTA	10-11	Florida
CINCINNATI	Even-6	St. Louis
CHICAGO (1)	11-12	Pittsburgh
CHICAGO (2)	6-7	Pittsburgh
COLORADO	9-10	Milwaukee
LA Dodgers	5 1/2-6 1/2	S. DIEGO
SAN FRAN	7 1/2-8 1/2	Arizona
American League		
Chicago	5 1/2-6 1/2	CLEVE.
NY YANKEES	7 1/2-8 1/2	Kan. City
Minnesota	Even-6	DETROIT
TAMPA BAY	10-11	Baltimore
BOSTON	Even-6	Toronto
LA ANGELS	6 1/2-7 1/2	Texas
SEATTLE	6-7	Oakland

Area golf

At Cedarbrook

Laurel Highlands - 200

Nate Nesser, 38; DaveByers and Zachh Collins, 39; Ben Sutton and Richard David, 42. Non-count: Alex Ashton, 50.

Ringgold - 209

Mike Yavorsky, 39; Rico Rodriguez, 40; Devin DiPiazza, 42; Connor Kane, 43; Nick Feld, 45. Non-count: Colin McCormick, 48.

At Mon Valley Country Club

Bentworth - 200

Ty Bell, 38; Clay Roman, 39; Kyle Kubovcik, Marko Kochis and Garret Damich, 41.

Charleroi - 238

Eric Anderson, 45; Evan Wysochanski,46; DerekSergi, 47; Brandon Konek, 48; Martin Maytas, 52. Non-count: Kirk Melenyzer, 58.

At Carmichaels

California - 197

Dave Beck and PhilLangley, 37; Dom Roach and Zac Edmiston, 40; Tyler Van Olst, 43.

Carmichaels - 213

Brandon Wolfe, 39; Zach Wolfe, 41; Christian Berardi, 42; Jeff Swift, 45; Alex Watson, 46.

NHL schedule

Thursday

Washington at Boston, 7 p.m.
Montreal at Toronto, 7 p.m.
San Jose at Colorado, 9:30 p.m.
Vancouver at Calgary, 10 p.m.

Friday

Florida vs. Chicago at Helsinki, 1 p.m.
Detroit vs. St. Louis at Stockholm, 4 p.m.
Philadelphia at Carolina, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Pittsburgh, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday

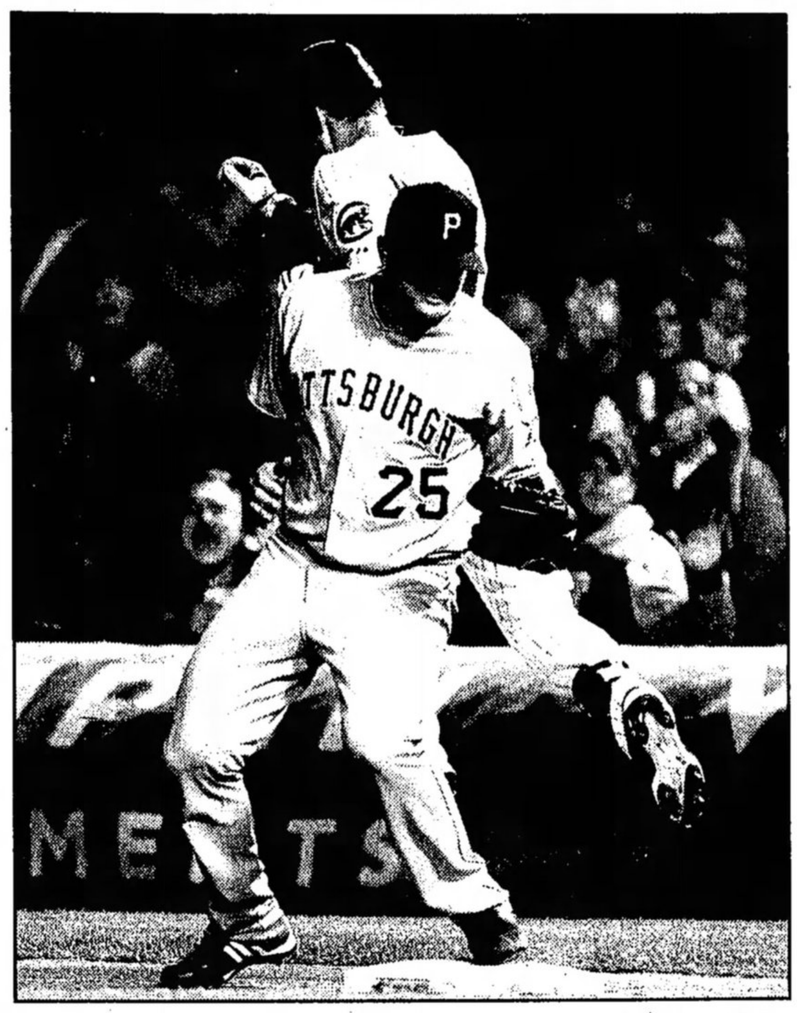
Chicago vs Florida at Helsinki, noon
St. Louis vs. Detroit at Stockholm, 3 p.m.
Vancouver at Colorado, 3 p.m.
Carolina at Boston, 7 p.m.
Montreal at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Pittsburgh at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
Ottawa at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Washington, 7 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Atlanta, 7 p.m.
Minnesota at Columbus, 7 p.m.
Nashville at Dallas, 8 p.m.
Calgary at Edmonton, 10 p.m.
San Jose at Anaheim, 10 p.m.
Phoenix at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

AFC leaders

Quarterbacks

	Att	Com	Yds	TD	Int
P. Manning,IND	96	66	983	7	2
Schaub, HOU	107	69	823	7	2
Flacco, BAL	104	68	839	6	2
Orton, DEN	88	49	663	3	0
R'berger, PIT	109	78	860	3	4
Sanchez, NYJ	83	49	606	4	2
T. Edwards,BUF	91	56	598	4	2
P. Rivers,SND	114	67	991	3	3
C

SPORTS



Associated Press

Pirates starting pitcher Kevin Hart is unable to handle a toss by first baseman Garrett Jones as Chicago's Micah Hoffpauir reaches first on Hart's error during the first inning Tuesday.

Dempster shuts out Pirates

Jeff Baker, Derek Lee provide the offense in Cubs' 6-0 win.

CHICAGO (AP) — Ryan Dempster isn't ready to shut it down.

Dempster pitched a five-hitter for his third career shutout, Jeff Baker had a two-run double and the Chicago Cubs beat the Pittsburgh Pirates 6-0 on Tuesday night.

Derrek Lee added a two-run single for the Cubs, who have won seven of nine but were eliminated from the playoff race when the Colorado Rockies beat Milwaukee later Tuesday.

The Cubs (82-74) guaranteed a winning record for the third straight season. It's only the second time in the last 70 years the Cubs have had three, or more consecutive winning seasons.

Dempster struck out six and walked two. He retired the ninth inning in order to record his first shutout since July 3, 2001, against the Montreal Expos, when he was a member of the Florida Marlins.

"It's unfortunate the season is coming to an end because I feel stronger than I did earlier in the year," Dempster said.

With the victory, Dempster (11-8) became the second active pitcher with at least 87 wins and 87 saves. John Smoltz has 213 wins and 154 saves.

Dempster is 5-1 in his last six decisions and makes his last start Sunday against the Diamondbacks. Cubs manager Lou Piniella believes Dempster is benefiting from the time he spent on the disabled list in July with a broken toe.

"He's gotten better and better as the year worn down. He really has," Piniella said. "He's pitching basically like the way he did last year. I thought he would have a nice strong finish because when he hurt his toe he (the disabled list time) really freshen up his arm."

Dempster has not allowed an earned run in his last 26 innings at Wrigley Field and his recent performance resembles his 17-6 season in 2008.

"Tonight, Dempster had all his pitches working. A good split-finger, a good slider and good life on his fastball. He went the distance," Pineilla said.

Pirates starter Kevin Hart (4-9) made his second start against his former team since being acquired from the Cubs in a five-player deal July 30. The troubles continued from the first inning for Hart, who is 1-8 in 10 starts since being acquired from the Cubs.

The Pirates, who were shutout for the 17th time this season, have dropped 17 of their last 18 road games.

Ryan Theriot led off the first inning with a walk off Hart, then went to third on Kosuke Fukudome's double.

One out later, Micah Hoffpauir hit a bouncer to first baseman Garrett Jones. Jones made a low a flip to Hart, who was running to first to cover the base but Hart dropped the ball and was charged with an error as Theriot scored. Baker followed with a two-run double to give the Cubs an early 3-0 lead.

After Pirates second baseman Delwyn Young committed the Pirates' third error of the game to load the bases in the fourth inning, Lee hit a two-run single and Hoffpauir drove in a run on a fielder's choice.

"We played terrible behind him. He was misfiring, but he battled. We make some plays, it's a lot different line score for him," Pirates manager John Russell said. "He made some adjustments. I thought that after the first inning he settled in and started throwing better. Again, we played so bad behind him it's a tough read."

Hart allowed six runs, three earned, on six hits in four innings after the Pirates came off a series of winning three of four from the Dodgers.

Tomich scores twice in BVA win

Shutout of Thomas Jefferson keeps Leps in third place.

By BILL HUGHES
For The Valley Independent

The Belle Vernon Area High boys' soccer team looked back on its biggest Class AA Section 3 win of the season.

The Leps remained in third place with a 2-0 victory at Thomas Jefferson Tuesday.

The two team had played to a 1-1 tie in their section opener at James Weir Stadium.

Mark Tomich scored both goals late for BVA (8-3-1, 5-2-1).

The first came with seven minutes remaining and the second two minutes later.

"It was one of the most dominant games I have seen us play in a long time,"said BVA coach Chris Stasicha. "They took it to us the first 15 minutes, but we controlled the rest of the game."

The Leps host Uniontown Thursday.

Southmoreland 7, EF 1

The Warriors slipped to fifth place in Class AA Section 3 with the loss to the second-place Scots.

"We started out fast with early shots and I thought we would control the tempo," said Elizabeth coach Dave King. "But they scored four goals within 20 minutes and it sunk us."

Justin Delmaster scored for the Warriors (5-6, 3-4), who host Uniontown Thursday.

Monessen 3, Brentwood 3

The Greyhounds had to settle for a tie after beating the Spartans, 4-1, in their first Class A Section 4 meeting.

Alex Picciarelli, Matt Francowic, and Sam Merando scored for Monessen (4-5-1, 2-4-1).

"We had numerous opportunities to win the game and we just couldn't finish," said Monessen coach Sam Perry. "We let them tie the game with three minutes to go."

Monessen visits second place Bentworth Thursday.

California 8, Brownsville 2

The Trojans (5-6-1, 3-4-1) had their best offensive output with freshman Jacob Angelo (three) and Patrick Tunney (two) combining for five goals in the Class A Section 1 contest.

Andrew Anderson and Skyler Boehm had the other Cal goals.

"We talked about having a turnaround in the section and we are putting in the effort," said California coach coach Adam Obranovich. We have a big one at Geibel Thursday."

Bentworth 1, Carlynton 1

Nick Malarbi scored in the first half for the second-place Bearcats (5-5-1, 5-1-1) against the Class A Section 4 leading Cougars (8-1-1, 6-0-1).

SPORTS HISTORY

30 Years Ago

In their last regularly scheduled game, the Pittsburgh Pirates clinched the National League East title with a 7-6 win over Chicago. Kent Tekulve picked up his 31st save to tie the club record.

20 Years Ago

Monessen shut down Mapletown's 4,000-yard rusher Derek Bochna in the Greyhounds' 22-0 victory.

Nick Milchovich ran for 170 yards and four touchdowns in Charleroi's 49-6 romp over Beth-Center.

Mike Metikosh scored two touchdowns and Craig Fayak ran for a score and kicked a 47-yard field goal in Belle Vernon Area's 22-21 win over Elizabeth Forward.

Anthony Peterson ran for 107 yards and scored a touchdown in Ringgold's 34-8 win over Shaler.

10 Years Ago

Shellie Cotton scored four goals in Charleroi's 7-1 win at Beth-Center.

Pittsburgh Penguins defenseman Darius Kasparaitis ended his holdout by signing a two-year, $3 million contract.

SPORTS DIGEST

Ringgold, BV Area volleyball winners

Ringgold and Belle Vernon Area were volleyball winners Tuesday.

The Lady Rams evened their record at 3-3 with a 3-2 victory over Canon-McMillan while the Lady Leps blanked Charleroi, 3-0.

Ringgold won the final match,15-11, after dropping a pair of 25-22 decisions following 25-23 and 25-22 wins.

Leading Ringgold were Rachel Jubic (21 service points), Kelly Becquet (19 service points and 15 k ills), Tonya Helmantoler (16 service points) and Samantha Helmantoler (20 kills).

BVA swept winless Charleroi, 25-16, 25-22 and 25-18 with Bryana Lewis (7 kills) and Ashley Fiorino (6 aces and 5 kills) leading the way.

Charleroi cagers down BVA, 26-15

Charleroi Middle School's basketball team stayed unbeaten with a 26-15 win over Belle Vernon Area.

The trio of Lyndsey Wright (8), Mia Woytowich (6) and Angie Tilghman (6) combined for 20 points for the Little Lady Cougars (8-0, 6-0).

Taylor Mackenzie was high for BVA (6-4, 5-1) with five points.

BV Area booters blank Charleroi

Belle Vernon Area Junior High's soccer team topped Charleroi, 2-0, to lift its record to 4-1.

David Wurmlinger and Anthony Zenobi each had a goal and assist for the Little Leps with goalie Alex Robinson getting his fourth shutout.

BVA hosts California today at 4 p.m.

Monessen cagers beat Bentworth

Monessen Middle School's basketball team upped its record to 3-2 with a 29-12 win over Bentworth.

Crosby expects to play Friday

CANONSBURG, Pa. (AP) — Pittsburgh Penguins captain Sidney Crosby has practiced for the first time since injuring his groin during a preseason game Thursday in Columbus.

Crosby took part in the Penguins' practice Tuesday and expects to play in the season opener Friday against New York Rangers. The Penguins will raise their Stanley Cup championship banner at Mellon Arena that night.

Crosby skated Saturday and Sunday, but did not play in the Penguins' final exhibition game Sunday in Detroit.

Evgeni Malkin, last season's NHL scoring leader, took a scheduled day off Tuesday.

Dolphins acquire Chiefs' Thigpen

MIAMI (AP) — Chad Pennington's season officially ended with a trade that didn't involve him. The Miami Dolphins placed Pennington on the reserve-injured list to create a roster spot for quarterback Tyler Thigpen, who was acquired from the Kansas City Chiefs for an undisclosed draft pick. Pennington hurt his right shoulder Sunday at San Diego, an injury that leaves his career in jeopardy. At 33, he likely faces a third operation on the shoulder since 2005.

Trivia answer

Hal Hunter is the Charger' offensive line coach.

Steelers (FROM PAGE ONE)

■ Don't mention Super Bowl hangover to Tomlin. Yesterday, he refuted any notion that the Steelers' two-game losing streak stems from a lack of focus or effort.

The Steelers have squandered fourth-quarter leads in road losses to the Chicago Bears and Bengals.

"I really think it's a lack of production on all our parts, coaches and players," Tomlin said. "We've got to fix it in a hurry. The story of the National Football League is finishing football games. In order for us to be what we desire to be, we've got to do a better job than what we're doing to this point."

■ Steelers return man Stefan Logan will emulate Chargers running back Darren Sproles this week in practice. Both players are listed at 5-foot-6. ...The Steelers have beaten the Chargers in seven of the past eight games that the teams have played.

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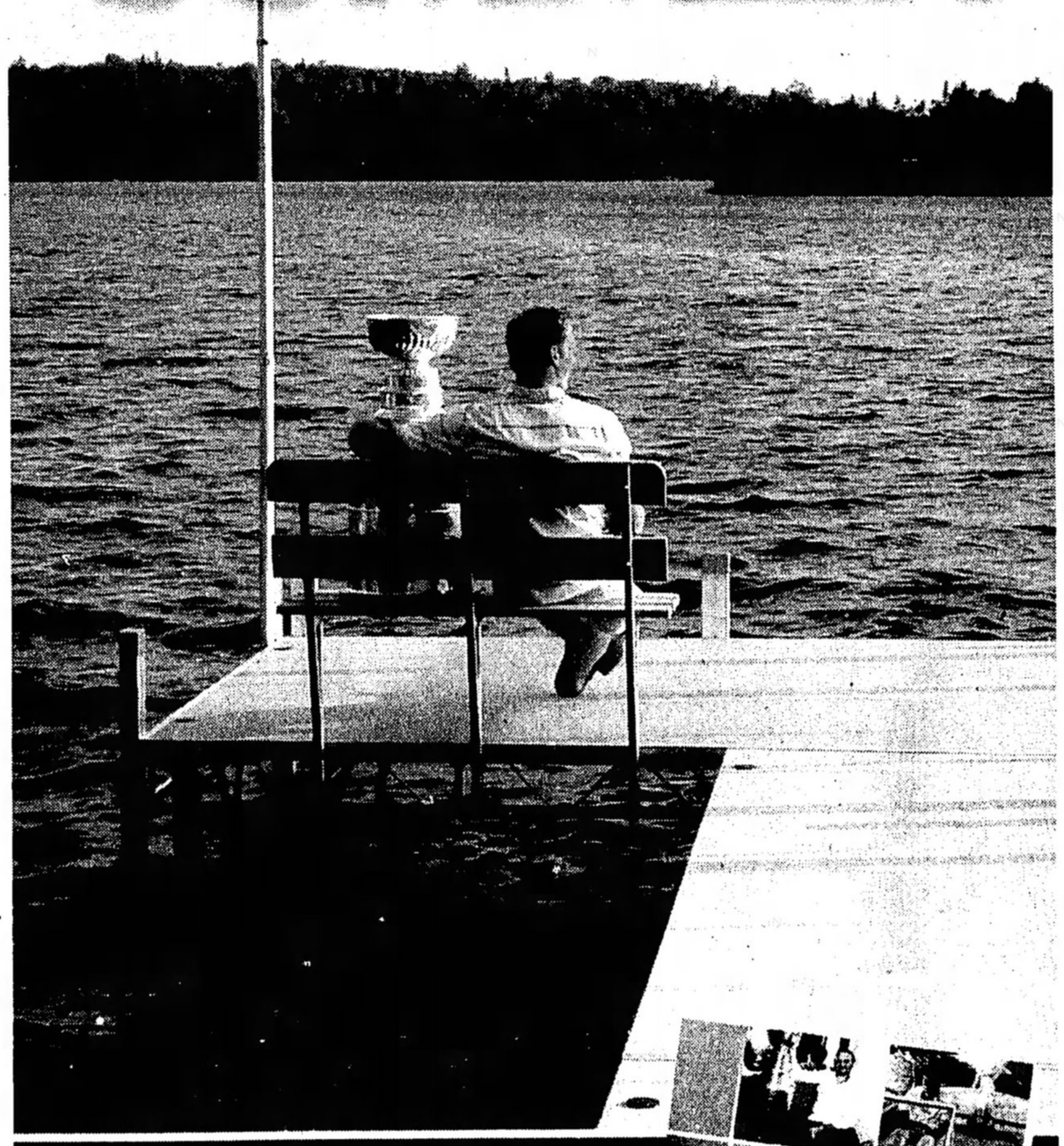

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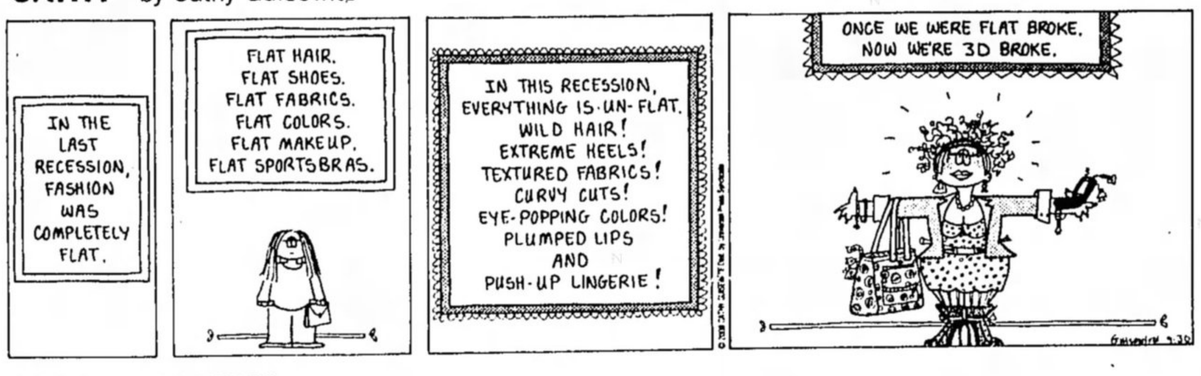
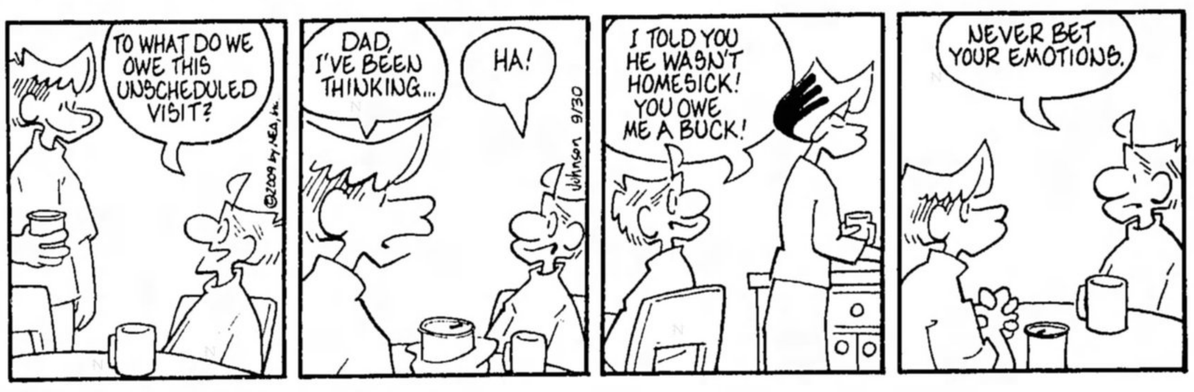

IN THE LAST RECESSION, FASHION WAS COMPLETELY FLAT.
FLAT HAIR. FLAT SHOES. FLAT FABRICS. FLAT COLORS. FLAT MAKEUP. FLAT SPORTSBRAS.
IN THIS RECESSION, EVERYTHING IS UN-FLAT. WILD HAIR! EXTREME HEELS! TEXTURED FABRICS! CURVY CUTS! EYE-POPPING COLORS! PLUMPED LIPS AND PUSH-UP LINGERIE!
ONCE WE WERE FLAT BROKE. NOW WE'RE 3D BROKE.

GARFIELD® by Jim Davis

ARLO and JANIS® by Jimmy Johnson


TO WHAT DO WE OWE THIS UNSCHEDULED VISIT?
DAD, I'VE BEEN THINKING...
HA!
Johnson 9/30
I TOLD YOU HE WASN'T HOMESICK! YOU OWE ME A BUCK!
NEVER BET YOUR EMOTIONS.

Classic PEANUTS® by Charles M. Schulz

THIS IS IT, LUCY.. WE HAVE TO CONCENTRATE! THE SEASON IS ALMOST OVER..
THIS IS OUR LAST GAME..
GAME OF WHAT?
AAUGHH! I CAN'T STAND IT! I JUST CAN'T STAND IT!
HOW LONG, OH, LORD, HOW LONG?!
BASEBALL! NOW, I REMEMBER.. OUR LAST GAME OF BASEBALL!
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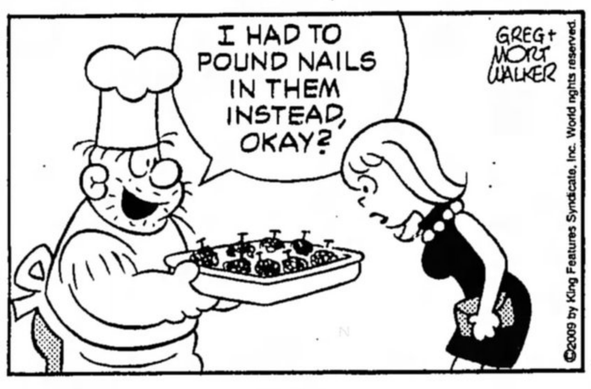
9-30-09

BEETLE BAILEY® by Mort Walker



HI & LOIS® by Mort Walker and Dick Browne

AH...
CHOO!
9-30
©2009 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved
CHANCE BROWNE
SORRY, SUNBEAM. I'LL COVER MY MOUTH NEXT TIME I SNEEZE.

GRIZZWELLS® by Bill Schorr

BORN LOSER® by Art Sansom

IN CELEBRATION OF THE SEASON, I WANTED TO BAKE YOU AN APPLE PIE!
BUT THIS LOOKS LIKE A STORE-BOUGHT PIE.
YOU THINK I HAVE THE TIME TO MAKE A HOMEMADE PIE?
9/30
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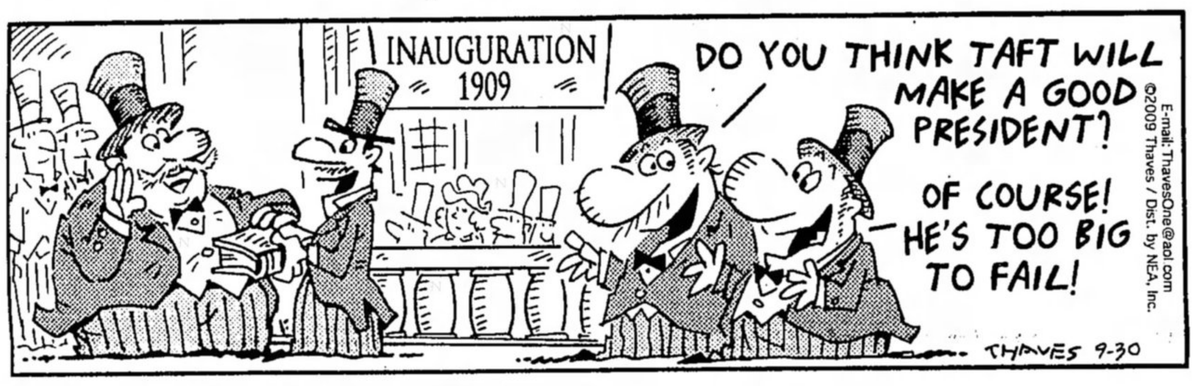
FRANK and ERNEST® by Bob Thaves


INAUGURATION 1909
DO YOU THINK TAFT WILL MAKE A GOOD PRESIDENT?
OF COURSE! HE'S TOO BIG TO FAIL!
THAVES 9-30
E-mail: ThavesOne@aol.com
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BLONDIE® by Young and Marshall

I SAW A REPORT ON THE NEWS ABOUT HOW UNSANITARY THE KITCHENS ARE IN SOME RESTAURANTS THESE DAYS
I SAW THAT REPORT MYSELF
I'M TELLING YOU, IT'S CRIMINAL HOW SOME KITCHENS ARE NEGLECTED
YOU WOULDN'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH ME TAKING A QUICK PEEK IN YOUR KITCHEN, WOULD YOU?
9-30
YOU GOT A WARRANT?
www.Blondie.com

SOUP TO NUTZ™ by Rick Stromoski

AYE CAPTAIN... SHALL WE COUNT OUR BOOTY?
9-30
AYE MATEY... TOTAL UP THE DAY'S PLUNDER!
-STROMOSKI-
FOURTEEN ACORNS, A STICK OF GUM, 2 LUG NUTS AND A PENCIL STUB...
A BANNER DAY INDEED...
©2009 Rick Stromoski Dist. by NEA, Inc. www.comics.com
email: soup2nutz@cox.net

KIT'N' CARLYLE® by Larry Wright

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane

"Mommy, am I finished with my bath?"

BIG NATE® by Lincolin Peirce

BEN! YOU'RE VOTING FOR ME, RIGHT?
UH... I'M NOT SURE, MARCUS...
HE'S NOT SURE? WHAT'S THAT ALL ABOUT?
WELL... I'VE HEARD SOME KIDS SAYING THEY MIGHT VOTE FOR NATE.
WHAT?
NOT A LOT OF KIDS! JUST A FEW.
OOOH! TENSION CONVENTION!
I COULD WIN THIS THING!
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MARK TRAIL® by Jack Elrod

MY FAMILY AND I LIVE ON THE EDGE OF THE SWAMP NOT TOO FAR FROM HERE!
JACK ELROD
9-30
I WAS LAID OFF FROM MY MILL JOB, ALONG WITH MANY OTHERS...THE SWAMP HAS KEPT SOME OF US IN FOOD!
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WHEN YOU TAKE A BREAK FROM FISHING, WHY DON'T YOU COME HAVE DINNER WITH US?
WE'D LIKE THAT!

SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

				9				
			7	8	5		9	6
5		7				1		3
7		5				4		2
9	8						3	5
	1						7	
		2				3		
		6	5		8	9		
			6	4	3			

Difficulty Level ★★★

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9/30

Answer to previous puzzle

5	6	9	4	2	8	3	1	7
4	1	3	5	7	6	9	2	8
7	8	2	3	1	9	4	5	6
1	7	5	9	3	4	6	8	2
3	2	6	1	8	5	7	4	9
9	4	8	7	6	2	5	3	1
2	3	1	6	5	7	8	9	4
8	9	7	2	4	3	1	6	5
6	5	4	8	9	1	2	7	3

Difficulty Level ★★

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9/29

The Valley Independent Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Moon track
6 Early VCRs
11 Microscope sight
12 Gulfport neighbor
13 Collapse (2 wds.)
14 Makes up for
15 Kitchen pros
16 Short distance
17 Weight deduction
18 That guy's
19 Quiche ingredients
23 Gloom's partner
25 Mete out
26 Craze
29 Eye part
32 Hire a lawyer
33 Gleeful shout
34 Fountain in Rome
35 Muser's mumbling
36 "I came," to Caesar
38 Room price
40 Famous last word
41 Ginza money
42 Platter
46 Went for the gold
48 Chop
49 "1984" author
52 Grow up
53 Name in perfumes
54 Made a basket
55 Civil offenses
56 Hurled

DOWN

1 Nebraska hub
2 Fido's pal
3 Complained
4 Sacred bird of Egypt
5 Get some sun
6 Light snack
7 Ran off
8 Freight weight
9 Logging tool
10 Female rel.
11 Checkbook no.
12 Some vampires
16 Smiled coyly
18 Class period
20 Mild oath
21 Feeling low
22 Look to be
24 Make a choice
26 Kind of bean
27 Polite cough
28 "Great" dog
30 John, in Russia
31 Struck a match
37 Think up
39 Tabloid staffer
41 Football cheer
43 Harden
44 Tool box item
45 Listen to
47 Dots in the Seine
48 SST speed ind.
49 Autumn mo.
50 Greek P
51 1914 headline
52 Colo. setting

Answer to Previous Puzzle

C	P	R	■	U	M	A	■	■	A	R	I	A
L	E	E	■	R	A	N	G	■	H	O	R	N
U	R	N	■	C	H	A	R	■	C	L	A	N
B	U	D	D	H	A	■	A	T	H	E	N	A
■	■	■	A	I	L	■	Z	O	O	■	■	■
S	A	T	I	N	■	R	E	P	O	R	T	■
E	M	U	S	■	O	U	R	S	■	A	Y	E
T	O	T	■	A	R	M	S	■	G	I	R	D
■	S	U	R	G	E	S	■	S	O	L	O	S
■	■	■	V	E	G	■	N	U	B	■	■	■
N	E	V	A	D	A	■	A	P	I	A	R	Y
O	V	A	L	■	N	I	K	E	■	B	Y	A
S	I	T	U	■	O	V	E	R	■	B	E	N
E	L	S	E	■	■	Y	D	S	■	A	S	K

Want more puzzles?
Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

9-30

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Meaning of 'African-American' reflects nation's past, present

Dear **ABBY**

DEAR ABBY: On July 23, "Wondering" asked why President Obama is considered to be African-American and you responded that the term "African-American" is used in this country as a label that describes skin color.

However, in the U.S. the term is generally applied to black Americans of slave ancestry.

Before the Civil War we were African-American slaves, not considered fully human by the U.S. Constitution.

After the Civil War and the outlawing of slavery, former slaves gained citizenship through amendments to the Constitution but were not able to exercise the full rights of citizenship. Most former slaves wanted to just be "Americans" with all the rights and privileges associated with it — but because of the color of their skin were discriminated against and given second-class citizenship.

The term "African-American" is the result of a search for identity by these new Americans, former slaves and their descendants. We were called by many names — most of them negative, such as "Negro," "Colored," "African," the infamous "N-word," "Afro-American" and finally, "black."

All of these at one time we considered negative because they didn't represent self-identification.

The black power movement occurred when Black Americans changed the negative term "black" to the positive term "Black."

The musician James Brown coined the phrase, "Say It Loud, I'm Black and I'm Proud." Later other black folk began to adopt the term "African-American," which brings us to the present.

We are a nation that has roots in all nations of the world.

Truly, "we ARE the world."

We're all American, either by birth or naturalization.

The labels tend to divide us into groups which separate us rather than bring us together.

The saying "United We Stand, Divided We Fall" is true.

Let us all come together and all be blessed. — **REV. ALTON E. PARIS, AMERICAN**

DEAR REV. PARIS: Thank you for your letter, which is both inspiring and educational. Many readers had comments about my answer, and they were all over the map.

Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I am a white female with many African-American friends, and yes, I did vote for Obama. When Obama became president, most of my black friends said: "Finally! We have a black man as president. All this racism will stop. The white man is no longer in charge of things."

To me, it was like it didn't matter that his mother was white, he was raised by his grandmother who was white, and he is half-white. What I'm trying to say is, he's a man of equal parts — not all black. So why do African-Americans make it sound like he is of all black heritage? Isn't he of white heritage also? A lot of my white friends feel the same way I do. — **NANCY G. IN CLEVELAND**

DEAR ABBY: Please inform "Wondering" that according to Webster's Dictionary, President Obama is mulatto, which is a person who is a first-generation offspring of a black person and a white person. — **WILLIAM B., CLAYTON, N.J.**

DEAR ABBY: When living in America, I am called an African-American. If I move to Africa, would I be called an American-African? — **KENNETH F., SARALAND, ALA.**

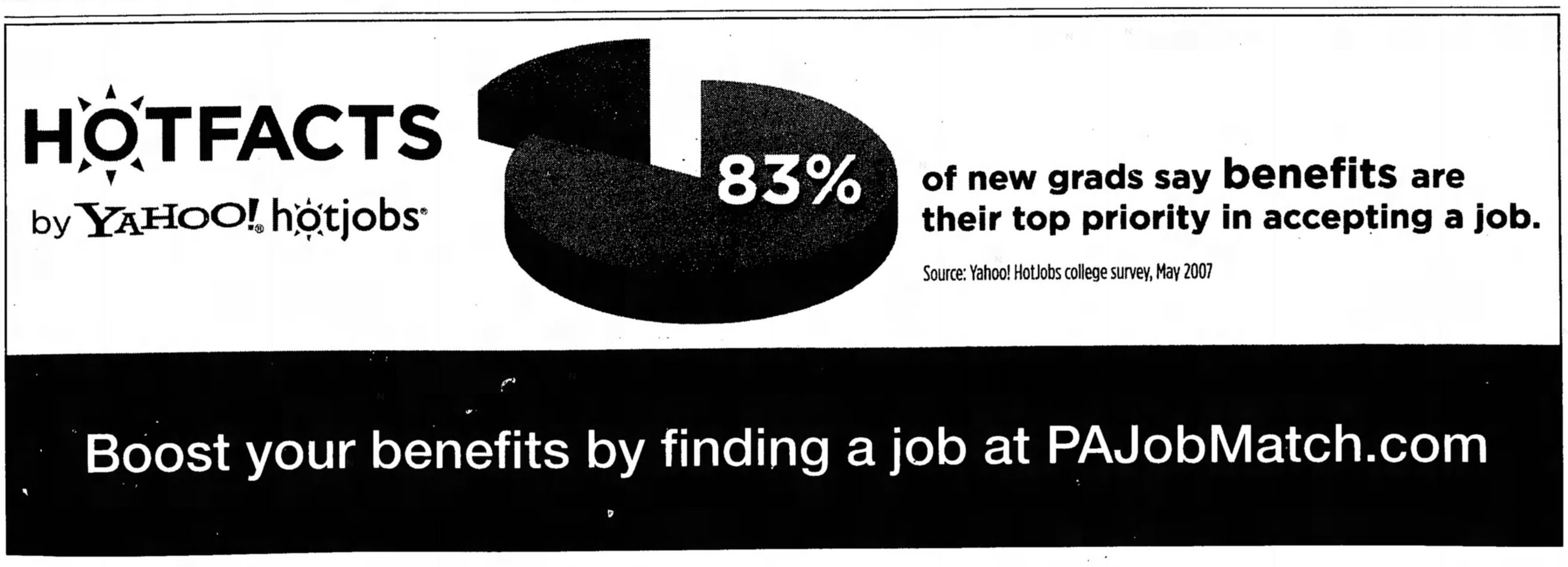
DEAR ABBY: Many biracial children are considered to be part of the ethnic group they resemble the most. While some may consider it disrespectful to say that someone is of one race when he or she is really biracial, this is the world we live in. We do, truly, "call 'em like we see 'em"! — **DEVYN B., FAYETTEVILLE, N.C.**

READERS: I'll have more on this tomorrow.

(Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.)

WEDNESDAY EVENING — SEPTEMBER 30, 2009

	6PM	6:30	7PM	7:30	8PM	8:30	9PM	9:30	10PM	10:30	11PM	11:30	12AM	12:30	1AM	1:30	2AM	2:30
CBS	(2) KDKA-TV News at Six (7) News (10) WTAJ News at 6	(7) (10) CBS Evening News With Katie Couric (N)	(2) CBS Evening News-Couric (7) Entertainment (10) Inside	(2) The Insider (N) (7) Inside Edition (N) (10) Two and a Half Men	The New Adventures of Old Christine "Burning Love" Old friends. (N)	Gary Unmarried "Gary Promises Too Much" Unrealistic birthday gift.	Criminal Minds "Haunted" The team searches for a disturbed man after he kills several people at a pharmacy. (N)		CSI: NY "Blacklist (Featuring Hangman)" The team searches for a cyber killer who seems to be targeting medical health care workers. (N)		(2) KDKA-TV News at 11 (7) News (10) WTAJ News at 11	(:35) Late Show With David Letterman Woody Harrelson; Harry Connick Jr. (N)		(:37) The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson Jenna Elfman; Dom Irrera. (N)		(2) (:37) Extra (7) (:37) The Dr. Oz Show (10) (:37) Paid Programming	(2) (:07) Internet Millions (10) (:07) Paid Programming	(2) (:37) Paid Programming (7) (10) (:37) Up to the Minute (N)
ABC	(4) Action News at 6 (23) Deal No	ABC's World News With Charles Gibson (N)	(4) Inside Edition A double pregnancy. (23) Jeopardy!	(4) Entertainment Tonight (23) Wheel of Fortune	Hank "Pilot" An entrepreneur has to downsize.	The Middle "Pilot" Sue auditions for show choir.	Modern Family Father and son time. (N)	Cougar Town Julies tries to keep up. (N)	Eastwick "Reaping and Sewing" Joanna and Penny try to uncover Darryl Van Horne's true identity. (N)		(4) Ch. 4 Action News at 11 (23) News	(:35) Nightline (N)	(12:06) Jimmy Kimmel Live Rebecca Romijn; Joseph Fiennes. (N)		(4) (:06) Oprah Winfrey (23) (:06) Paid Programming	(23) (:37) Paid Programming	(4) Reshape Your Body (23) Springer	(4) (:36) Channel 4 Action News at 11
NBC	(6) WJAC-TV News at 6 PM (N) (9) News (N) (11) Channel 11 News (N)	NBC Nightly News (N)	(6) Entertainment Tonight (N) (9) (11) Jeopardy! (N)	(6) Who Wants to Be a Millionaire (9) (11) Wheel of Fortune	Mercy "I Believe You Conrad" Veronica and Mike move back in together; Chloe helps a patient. (N)		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Sugar" Stabler and Benson suspect a sugar daddy of murder. (N)		The Jay Leno Show Adam Carolla; Steve Carell. (N)		(6) WJAC-TV News (9) News (11) News	(:35) The Tonight Show With Conan O'Brien Kate Walsh; Brad Paisley. (N)		(:37) Late Night With Jimmy Fallon Dennis Hopper; Amy Brenneman; Owen Benjamin. (N)		(:36) Last Call With Carson Daly Chris Pratt; Ted Ligety. (N)	(:05) Poker After Dark Howard Lederer; Marco Traniello; Dario Minieri; Erick Lindgren; Max Pescatori; Chris Ferguson. (N)	
FOX	(8) Seinfeld (53) Two and a Half Men	(8) The Simpsons (53) My Name Is Earl	(8) That '70s Show (53) Two and a Half Men	(8) My Name Is Earl (53) Seinfeld	So You Think You Can Dance Dancers from across the country audition. (N)		Glee "The Rhodes Not Taken" Will tries to give the glee club more of an edge. (N)		(8) News (53) Channel 11 News	(8) (:35) My Name Is Earl (Part 2 of 2)	(8) (:05) Everybody Loves Raymond (53) Seinfeld	(8) (:35) Seinfeld (53) My Name Is Earl	(8) Star Trek: The Next Generation (53) Frasier	(53) Paid Programming	(8) Paid Prog (53) Smart Medicine. Joint	(8) (:35) Paid Programming (53) Free Money	(8) (:05) Paid Programming (53) George Lopez	(8) Paid Program (53) House of Payne
(13) WQED	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)		Nightly Business Report	OnQ	The National Parks: America's Best Idea Automobile allows more people than ever to visit the national parks.		Paving the Way: National Park-to-Park				Charlie Rose (N)		OnQ	Smart Travels	The National Parks: America's Best Idea Automobile allows more people than ever to visit the national parks.			
(19) WPCW	The People's Court (N)		The Office	The Office	America's Next Top Model "Take My Photo, Tyra!" (N)		Melrose Place		10 O'Clock News	The Nightly Sports Call	Everybody-Raymond	Malcolm in the Middle	According to Jim	King of the Hill	South Park	Mike Tomlin Show	Paid Programming	Paid Programming
(22) WPMY	Simpsons	Family Guy	Simpsons	Family Guy	The Unit		The Unit "Stress"		Law & Order: SVU		Star Trek: Next Gener.		Joint Health	Paid Prog	Bernie Mac	My Wife	Half & Half	Half & Half
(40) WPCB	The 700 Club		Focus 4		Effective Parenting		Dawn Hall	Aspiring	With Arlene	Quick Study	Nwswtch	The Place for Miracles		Theater	Focus 4		Gospel	Tripp
(59) WBGN	Punk'd	Sports Talk	Sports Talk		The FBI Files "Hired Gun"		Laguna	RENO 911!	The FBI Files "Hired Gun"		Cheaters	Laguna	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.
A&E	CSI: Miami		Criminal Minds		Dog	Dog	Dog	Dog	Dog	Dog	Dog	Dog	Dog	Dog	Dog	Dog	Dog	Dog
ABCFAM	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	'70s Show	'70s Show	★★★ "While You Were Sleeping" (1995)				Funniest Home Videos		The 700 Club		Whose Line?	Whose Line?	Ab Secrets	Paid Prog	Paid Prog	Paid Prog
AMC	(4:30) ★★★ "Any Given Sunday" (1999) Al Pacino.				★★★ "Lethal Weapon" (1987) Mel Gibson, Danny Glover.					★★★ "Lethal Weapon 2" (1989, Action) Mel Gibson, Danny Glover.					★★ "Commando" (1985) Arnold Schwarzenegger.			
ANPL	Untamed and Uncut		World's Worst Venom		Animal Nightmares		Bear Attack!		River Monsters		Animal Nightmares		Bear Attack!		River Monsters		World's Worst Venom	
BBC	Ramsay's Kitchen		BBC World News America		Ramsay's Kitchen		Ramsay's Kitchen		BBC World News America		Ramsay's Kitchen		Ramsay's Kitchen		Ramsay's Kitchen		Ramsay's Kitchen	
BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live (Live)				★★★ "Boyz N the Hood" (1991) Larry Fishburne.				First In	First In (N)	The Wendy Williams Show		★★★ "Boyz N the Hood" (1991) Larry Fishburne.				The Wendy Williams Show	
BRAVO	Top Chef	★★★ "Coming to America" (1988) Eddie Murphy, Arsenio Hall.					Top Chef: Las Vegas		Top Chef: Las Vegas		★★★ "Coming to America" (1988) Eddie Murphy, Arsenio Hall.					Real Housewives-Atlanta		Rachel Zoe
CMT	Extreme Makeover: Home Edition "Vardon Family"				Smarter	Smarter	★★★ "Urban Cowboy" (1980, Drama) John Travolta, Debra Winger, Scott Glenn.						Smarter	Smarter	Videos	Videos	Jacked Up	Jacked Up
CNBC	Mad Money		Kudlow Report		Biography "Sam Walton"		American Greed		American Greed		Mad Money		Fast Money		American Greed		Foreclosure	Paid Prog
CNN	Situation Room-Wolf Blitzer		Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360		Anderson Cooper 360	
COM	RENO 911!	Tosh.0	Daily Show	Colbert	Scrubs	Scrubs	Futurama	Futurama	South Park	South Park	Daily Show	Colbert	South Park	Drawn Toget	Futurama	Daily Show	Colbert	Leguizamo's
CSPAN	(5:00) House of Representatives				Tonight From Washington						Capital News Today						Today in Washington	
DISC	Cash Cab	Cash Cab	MythBusters		MythBusters		MythBusters		Mega Engineering (N)		MythBusters		MythBusters		Mega Engineering		Cash Cab	Cash Cab
DISNEY	Phineas-Ferb	Montana	Wizards	Suite Life	★★ "The Lizzie McGuire Movie" (2003)			Phineas-Ferb	Phineas-Ferb	Montana	Wizards	That's-Raven	Life Derek	Cory	Replace	Kim Possible	Emperor	Dragon
E!	Take Miami	Take Miami	E! News (N)	The Daily 10	Girls	Kardashians	True Hollywood Story		True Hollywood Story (N)		Chelsea	E! News	Chelsea	"Bring It On: All or Nothing" (2006) Hayden Panettiere.			Chelsea	
ESPN	SportsCenter (Live)		MLB Baseball Teams TBA. (Subject to Blackout) (Live)						Baseball Tonight		SportsCenter (Live)		Baseball	NFL Live (N)	SportsCenter (Live)		SportsCenter (Live)	
ESPNC	College Football		Can't Blame	Can't Blame	Boxing		NHL Hockey: 1987 Stanley Cup Finals -- Flyers at Oilers				AWA Wrestling		American Gladiators		Boxing		Boxing	Boxing
ESPN2	Horn	Interruption	NFL Live	Football Live	College Football Hawaii at Louisiana Tech. (Live)						2009 World Series of Poker		SportsNation		NASCAR	X Games 15	College Football	
EWTN	Catholic	Giotto	Daily Mass: Our Lady		EWTN Live		Super Saints	Holy Rosary	White dove of Peace		Faith-Culture	Heritage	Daily Mass: Our Lady		EWTN Live		Letter-Spirit	Marriage
FNC	Special Report		FOX Report-Shepard Smith		The O'Reilly Factor (N)		Hannity (N)		On the Record		The O'Reilly Factor		Hannity		On the Record		Glenn Beck	
FOOD	Cooking	Minute	Challenge		Unwrapped Secrets.		Bobby Flay	Bobby Flay	Dinner: Impossible		Good Eats	Unwrapped	Bobby Flay	Bobby Flay	Dinner: Impossible		Good Eats	Unwrapped
FSN	Raw Tapes	Spotlight	In My Words	Pregame	MLB Baseball Pittsburgh Pirates at Chicago Cubs. From Wrigley Field in Chicago.						Pirates Post.	Final Score	MLB Baseball Pittsburgh Pirates at Chicago Cubs.				Final Score	Final Score
FX	★★ "The Transporter" (2002) Jason Statham, Shu Qi.				★★★ "A Few Good Men" (1992, Drama) Tom Cruise, Jack Nicholson, Demi Moore.						★★★ "A Few Good Men" (1992, Drama) Tom Cruise, Jack Nicholson, Demi Moore.						Paid Prog	Paid Prog
GOLF	Golf Central	Top 10	The Golf Fix	Quest-Card	19th Hole (N)	Top 10	Big Break	Golf Videos	Golf	Golf	19th Hole	Golf Central	Big Break	Golf Videos	Golf	Golf	19th Hole	Quest-Card
GSN	Newlywed	Catch 21	Deal or No Deal		Family Feud	Family Feud	Newlywed	Catch 21	Millionaire	Lingo	Deal or No Deal		Be a Millionaire		Jeopardy!	Hollywood	Pyramid	Pyramid
HALL	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Touched by an Angel		Touched by an Angel		Touched by an Angel		Golden Girls	Golden Girls	Golden Girls	Golden Girls	Golden Girls	Golden Girls	Cheers	Cheers
HGTV	To Sell	Beyond Box	House	House	Property	Property	House	Income Prop.	House	Renovation	Haulin	First Place	House	Income Prop.	House	Renovation	Haulin	First Place
HIST	Nostradamus Effect		Modern Marvels		MonsterQuest		Nostradamus Effect (N)		MysteryQuest (N)		Investigating History		(12:01) MonsterQuest		(:01) Nostradamus Effect		(:01) MysteryQuest	
LIFE	Grey's Anatomy		Medium		Medium		★★★ "Ghost" (1990, Fantasy) Patrick Swayze, Demi Moore.					Will & Grace	Frasier	Frasier	Will & Grace	Grey's Anatomy		Paid Prog
MSNBC	The Ed Show (N)		Hardball		Countdown-Olbermann		The Rachel Maddow Show		Countdown-Olbermann		The Rachel Maddow Show		Hardball		Countdown-Olbermann		The Rachel Maddow Show	
MTV	Disaster	Popzilla (N)	True Life		The City	The Hills	The Real World		Real World/Road Rules Challenge			Real World/Road Rules Challenge			Disaster	Popzilla	Nitro Circus	Pranked
NICK	iCarly	Jackson	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	Malcolm	Malcolm	Lopez	Lopez	Hates Chris	Hates Chris	The Nanny	The Nanny	Malcolm	Malcolm	Lopez	Lopez	Hates Chris	Hates Chris
OXY	Naughty Kitchen		★★★ "Sleepless in Seattle" (1993) Tom Hanks, Meg Ryan.					★★★ "Sleepless in Seattle" (1993) Tom Hanks, Meg Ryan.					The Tyra Show		The Tyra Show		Snapped	Snapped
PCN	PCN Tours		PCN Call-In (Live)		PCN Primetime - pcntv.com				PCN Evening - pcntv.com				PCN Late Night - pcntv.com				Deutsche Welle News	
PCNC	Pittsburgh Now		News	Psychiatric	NightTalk		PCNC News		NightTalk		Pittsburgh	Fedko Fone	PCNC News	PCNC News		Paid Prog	NightTalk	
SPIKE	UFC Unleashed		UFC Unleashed		The Ultimate Fighter		The Ultimate Fighter		The Ultimate Fighter (N)		The Ultimate Fighter		DEA		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Star Trek: Voyager	
SYFY	Stargate SG-1 "Red Sky"		Ghost Hunters		Ghost Hunters		Ghost Hunters (N)		(:01) Destination Truth (N)		(:01) Ghost Hunters		(12:01) Destination Truth		(:01) Lost "Abandoned"		(:01) The X-Files	
TBS	Seinfeld	The Office	Name Is Earl	Name Is Earl	House-Payne	House-Payne	Meet-Browns	Meet-Browns	House-Payne	House-Payne	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Sex and-City	Sex and-City	★★ "Paycheck" (2003) (PA) Ben Affleck.			
TCM	(:15) ★★★ "Dark Victory" (1939, Drama) Bette Davis.				★★★ "They Won't Forget" (1937) Claude Rains.				★★ "Twilight of Honor" (1963) Richard Chamberlain.				★★ "They Made Me a Criminal" (1939)				(:45) ★★ "The Unsuspected" (1947)	
TLC	Dress	Dress	Pregnant	Pregnant	Pregnant	Pregnant	King of the Crown		Toddlers & Tiaras (N)		Pregnant	Pregnant	King of the Crown		Toddlers & Tiaras		Pregnant	Pregnant
TNT	NUMB3RS		NUMB3RS		NUMB3RS "Blowback"		NUMB3RS		Leverage		Dark Blue		Leverage		Dark Blue		Cold Case "Bad Night"	
TOON	Scooby	Teen Titans	Teen Titans	Teen Titans	Star Wars	Dude	Johnny Test	Thumb Wars	King of Hill	King of Hill	Family Guy	Family Guy	Chicken	Hungerforce	The Oblongs	Home	King of Hill	King of Hill
TRAVEL	Extreme Conventions		Man v. Food	Man v. Food	Extreme Races (N)		Man v. Food	Man v. Food	Man v. Food	Man v. Food	Man v. Food	Man v. Food	Extreme Races		Man v. Food	Man v. Food	Man v. Food	Man v. Food
TRUTV	Wildest Police Videos		Cops	Cops	Most Daring		Most Daring (N)		Black Gold (N)		Forensic	Forensic	Most Daring		Most Daring		Black Gold	
TVLAND	Little House on the Prairie		Hillbillies	Hillbillies	Married...	Married...	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne
USA	NCIS		NCIS "Singled Out"		NCIS "Driven"		NCIS "Heart Break"		NCIS "Good Wives Club"		★★★ "Blood Diamond" (2006) Leonardo DiCaprio, Jennifer Connelly.						★ "Desert Heat" (1999)	
VH1	Coyote Ugly	Eddie Griffin	Real Chance of Love		Real Chance of Love		Real Chance of Love		Real Chance of Love		Tool Academy		★★ "Just One of the Guys" (1985) Joyce Hyser.				My Antonio	
VS.	Motorcycle Racing		Sports	Sports Soup	★★★ "Slap Shot" (1977) Paul Newman, Michael Ontkean.					★★★ "Slap Shot" (1977) Paul Newman, Michael Ontkean.					WEC WrekCage		Sports	Sports Soup
WE	Golden Girls	Golden Girls	Ghost Whisperer		60 Minutes		60 Minutes		60 Minutes (N)		The Locator	The Locator	Adoption	Adoption	60 Minutes		The Locator	The Locator
WGN	Becker	Becker	Funniest Home Videos		★★★ "Octopussy" (1983, Action) Roger Moore, Maud Adams, Louis Jourdan.						Scrubs	Scrubs	South Park	South Park	Star Trek: Next Gener.		The Bob & Tom Show	
ENC	(:10) ★★ "The Grand" (2008) Woody Harrelson.				★★ "21" (2008, Drama) Jim Sturgess. Premiere.				(:05) ★★ "Step Up 2 the Streets" (2008)			(:45) ★ "Bubble Boy" (2001)			(:15) ★★★ "Redbelt" (2008) Chiwetel Ejiofor.			
HBO	Hellboy 2	★★ "No Reservations" (2007)			In Brooklyn	★★★ "Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa"			Bored	Curb-Enthsm	Real Time With Bill Maher		★★★ "Hellboy II: The Golden Army" (2008)				(:05) ★ "Hell Ride" (2008)	
MAX	(5:45) ★★★ "Changeling" (2008) Angelina Jolie.				(:15) ★★ "The X-Files: I Want to Believe" (2008)				★★ "Choke" (2008) Sam Rockwell.			Co-Ed Conf.	(12:10) ★ "Rush Hour 3" (2007)			(:45) Lingerie		Changeling
SHOW	Arachnoph	★★ "Hot Rod" (2007) Andy Samberg.			Full Color Football History		Inside the NFL (N)		Dexter "Living the Dream"		Inside the NFL (iTV)		Californ	★★★ "Scream" (1996, Horror) Neve Campbell. iTV.				★★ Shade
STARZ	Kate	(:41) ★★★ "Apocalypto" (2006) Rudy Youngblood. (Subtitled)					Crash		★★ "Sex Drive" (2008, Comedy) Josh Zuckerman.				(11:50) Crash		(12:50) ★★★ "Erin Brockovich" (2000) Julia Roberts.			
TMC	(5:45) ★★★ "3:10 to Yuma" (2007) Russell Crowe.				★★★★ "There Will Be Blood" (2007, Drama) Daniel Day-Lewis, Paul Dano.				★ "Saw IV" (2007, Horror) Tobin Bell.				(:35) ★★ "The Hunting Party" (2007) Richard Gere.					Swingers


HOTFACTS
by YAHOO! hotjobs
83%
of new grads say benefits are their top priority in accepting a job.
Source: Yahoo! HotJobs college survey, May 2007
Boost your benefits by finding a job at PAJobMatch.com

FEATURES

CRAFT OF THE WEEK

These quilts fit any schedule

Although it's never difficult to start a quilt (as any quilter can tell you), the trouble is that it's often hard to find the time to finish one – especially with the holidays approaching.

If you're a quilter on a tight schedule, or a beginner looking for a quick way to build your skills, now there's a timely solution.

A full-color, 47-page guidebook makes it easy to enjoy quilting no matter how busy your schedule.

"Weekend Quilted Projects" features a dozen projects that can be cut and pieced in a single weekend. Each design includes a materials list, illustrated step-by-step instructions, piecing diagrams and full-size patterns (where necessary).

If you're new to quilting or just need a refresher, a section covering the basics will help you get started. In addition, big, full-color photographs of each design will point you to the right project every time.

Ranging from full-size bed quilts to pillows, wall hangings, home decorating projects and more, designs include "Patchwork Decorator" (pictured), "Star Pillows," "Butterfly Party Quilt," "Patriotic Picnic Cloth" (perfect for fireworks in the park), "Memo Board" (for organizing and displaying photos and more), "Hold Everything Bag," "Little Pines" (which includes a matching table quilt, tea towel and coasters) and five others.

Quick quilt

The "Weekend Quilted Projects" guidebook, No. LA4682, is $11.95.

If you have a little more time for your quilt projects, you can find eight other quick quilt designs in a 64-page guidebook called "7-Day Quilts," No. LA3691, available for $13.95. Please include $4 for postage and handling and allow about two weeks for delivery.

To order by mail, clip this article and send it with a check or money order to U-Bild Features, c/o *The Valley Independent,* 3800 Oceanic Drive, Suite. 107, Oceanside, CA 92056. To order by credit card, call 1 (800) 828-2453.

Visit U-Bild on the Web at craftbook.com.

For the 30th year, three Monessen residents took *The Valley Independent* on vacation to Ocean City, Md. From left are Wanda McGee, Mary Valko and Della Guseman.

CALENDAR WATCH

Thursday

■ Charleroi American Legion Club and Post 22, club meeting, 7 p.m.; post meeting, 8 p.m.

■ Southwestern Local Task Force meeting, Intermediate Unit 1 central office, 10 a.m.

■ Southwest PA Area Agency on Aging Relatives as Parents Program, Washington Care Center, 75 E. Maiden St., 6 p.m.

■ Charleroi Lions Club meeting, JEM Lounge, Fallowfield Township, 6:30 p.m.

■ Knights of Columbus Council 3026, Belle Vernon, meeting, Seven Dolors Church, Yukon, 8 p.m.

■ MARS club meeting, 11:30 a.m.

■ Angel Food Ministry registration, First Presbyterian Church, 601 Chess St., Monongahela, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

■ Overeaters Anonymous meeting, Mon Valley Community Health Center, Monessen, 7:30 p.m.

VALLEY GRAPEVINE

Mon Valley Nurses Association to meet

The Mon Valley Nurses Association will meet 7 p.m. Thursday at Riverside Place, Charleroi. Vickie Davis will serve as speaker. Members should bring nonperishable items.

Job Fair planned in Rostraver Twp.

A Mon Valley Job Fair will take place 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday at the Rostraver Central Volunteer Fire Company, 1100 Fells Church Road, Rostraver Township. PA CareerLink Mon Valley, Mon Valley Initiative, Mon Valley NAACP, California University of Pennsylvania, MMIDA and Westmoreland Community College will sponsor the event. For information, call (724) 379-4750.

District Council Legion Auxiliary sets meeting

Unit 175 will host the District Council meeting for Washington, Fayette and Greene County American Legion Auxiliary units at the American Legion in Washington 10:30 Oct. 7. The registration deadline is Oct. 2. To register, call (724) 222-8337. Department President Sharon Mills, of Sharon, will speak. The American Legion Auxiliary is celebrating its 90th anniversary and the Pennsylvania section made goal for both the department and national levels.

Harvest Moon campfire planned

The Washington County Department of Parks and Recreation will sponsor its second annual free Harvest Moon campfire 7 p.m. Monday at shelter 2 at Mingo Creek Park. It will include live music, songs and stories around the campfire. Learn about the moon from a member of the Amateur Astronomers of Pittsburgh Inc. Marshmallows will be provided. Bring a chair or blanket and a beverage. For reservations, call (724) 228-6867.

Monessen library trustees scheduled special meeting

The Monessen Public Library and District Center trustees will conduct a special meeting 2 p.m. Friday in the library.

Chicken, biscuit dinner scheduled

The First Christian Church, 115 Sixth St., Monessen, will conduct a chicken and biscuit dinner 3 to 6:30 p.m. Saturday. For takeouts, call (724) 684-8585.

Flea market set Saturday

A flea market will take place 8 a.m. to noon Saturday at the Belle Vernon Apartments on Blind Lane.

Mon Valley Youth, Teen bingo planned

The Mon Valley Youth and Teen Center, 160 Thompson Ave., Donora, will sponsor bingo, lunch and an auction 12:30 p.m. Sunday.

Drug, Alcohol Commission board schedules meeting

The Westmoreland Drug and Alcohol Commission board of directors will meet 6 p.m. Monday in room 3108 at Science Hall at Westmoreland County Community College, Hempfield Township. For information, call (724) 684-9000, ext. 4446.

MAKING THE GRADE

Zucconi receives W&J degree

Erica L. Zucconi graduated *summa cum laude* from Washington & Jefferson College with a bachelor of arts degree in language arts.

A member of Phi Beta Kappa, she is pursuing a master's degree from Duquesne University.

She is the daughter of Dennis and Annamarie Zucconi and granddaughter of Joan Zucconi, of North Belle Vernon.

Zucconi

Connolly

Ringgold inducts NHS members

The following Ringgold High School students have been inducted into the National Honor Society:

Taylor Adams, Thomas Baran, Michelle Bassi, Karie Bavuso, Angela Beck, Kelly Becquet, Ashley Bellis, Sara Bowker, Colleen Bucher, Jacob Burnisky, Joshua Burnisky, Travis Carroll, James Donovan, David Doty, Michelle Dunseath, Haley Durkacz, Lindsey Ficorilli, Joseph Fogiato, Alexis Giles, Breanna Goetz, Nicole Greco, Laura Guarinoni, David Guentner, Rachel Guglielmi, Stephanie Guzik, Taylor Halinka, Bethany Hallam, Ashley Hardinger, Makensie Holets, Kaylin Homa, Taylor Hruby, Lauren Jacobs, Rachael Jubic, Lacey Kazior, David Keener, Brooke Kinder, Jonathan Kite, Jason Kohlburn, Stephanie Koontz, Stephanie Lenhart, Caci Lignelli, Sarah Lutz, Amanda Manko, Taylor Marnich, Ashton Martik, Jordan Massari, Moriah Mathies, Molly McCartan, Colin McCormick, Ashley McMahon, Jamie Melzer, Katherine Murray, Alexandrea Nietert, Leah Pascarella, Matthew Patton, Dillion Price, Natalie Radic, Haley Robison, Richard Rodriguez, Violet Sarver, Emily Schmidt, Dalton Smith, Drake Spahr, Leah St. Cyr, Aaron Stewart, Racheal Stilley, Andrew Stine, Janna Stirling, Brianna Szymanski, Danielle Veliky, Joseph Wohar.

The ceremony also included the installation of: Darcy Mautino, president; Devin Ilgenfritz, vice president; Barrett Henze, secretary; and Paula Zimba, treasurer.

BV Rotary honors Connolly

The Belle Vernon Rotary named Jocelyn Connolly as its September student of the month.

A senior at Belle Vernon Area High School, she is active in Interact Club, MIC, SADD, Spanish Club and National Honor Society.

She is a member of the youth group at St. Anne Church, Rostraver Township.

The daughter of Loris and Jim Connolly, of Rostraver Township, she plans to attend college.

IN THE SERVICE

McElfresh completes training

Air National Guard Airman 1st Class Chadd F. McElfresh completed basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

The son of Everett and Debra McElfresh of Belle Vernon, he is a 2006 Belle Vernon Area High School graduate.

When you make the grade

When submitting news items for our Making the Grade feature, please include the first and last names of all listed. In addition, include a telephone number, just in case we have any questions about your submission.

CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

Today's clue: S equals D

"FR INYHH TRZWOTR Y IWJIEYBEOYHHX BRF GYBBRT KU ENOBAOBD OU GYBAOBS OI EK IWTLOLR." - YHJRTE ROBIEROB

PREVIOUS SOLUTION: "If you greatly desire something, have the guts to stake everything on obtaining it." - Brendan Francis

play the find your name game!
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it's easy!

ENTER YOUR NAME TODAY.
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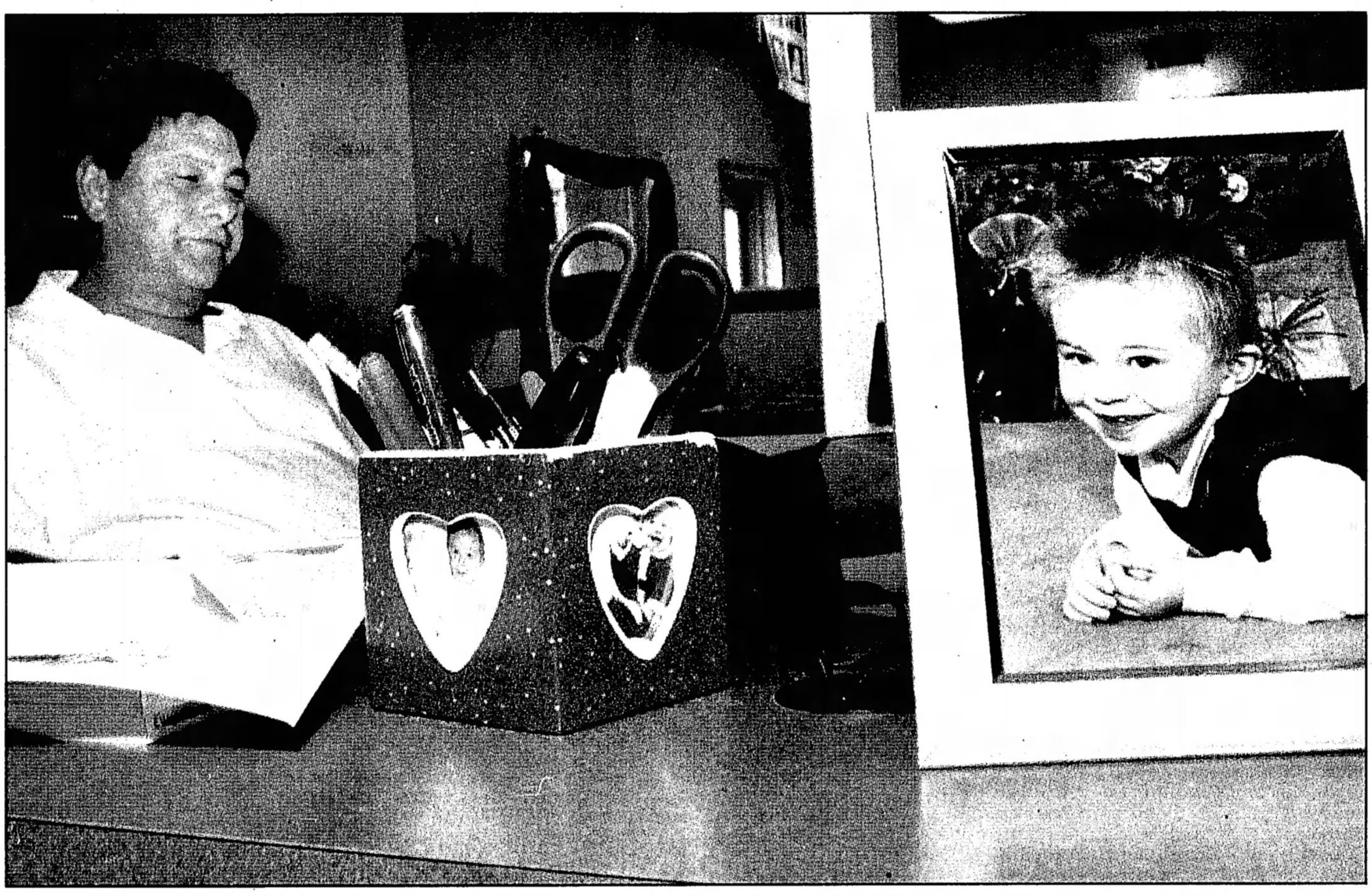
SANTORI KITCHEN & BATH



Randy Santori's desk at Santori Kitchen & Bath in Rostraver Township includes a photo of his 4-year-old grandson, Jacob. The youngster seems suited for the family business, as he likes to recommend products to Santori customers.

Jim Ference/ The Valley Independent

Business in the family for 75 years

Current owner is the grandson of founder Lewis Santori.

By JEFF PIKULSKY
Staff Writer
jpikulsky@tribweb.com

ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP — Commitment to quality products and exceptional customer service runs four generations deep at Santori Kitchen & Bath.

Lewis Santori opened the business 75 years ago in Monessen.

He sold products made at a plant in Belle Vernon into the early 1970s.

Lewis Santori's grandson, Randy Santori, 54, and his wife, Marilyn, began running the business in 1995.

Their children, Tricia Sanner and Eric Santori, work with them.

Just as he has taught his children, Randy Santori learned from his father, Robert, when he ran the business.

"They just picked it up as they were moving along," Randy Santori said of his children.

Tricia Sanner's husband, Frank, performs installations for the business.

Each family member has been tasked with handling a number of responsibilities.

"The only thing I don't do is go out and measure," Sanner said.

Eric Santori conducts sales and installations, like his father formerly did.

Randy Santori handles managerial duties and his wife works in sales.

The current owner and operator said he decided it was time to change the business model when he took over.

"We no longer make our own products. Now we're a distributor for manufacturers," Randy Santori said. "We have different cabinet brands that we sell now. Our niche now is complete bathroom and kitchen renovations, from floors to lighting and walls. We do everything."

Randy Santori introduced computerized blueprints that show the customer specific designs and layouts before they choose the final look of their new room.

Dedication to detail and quality pricing has allowed Santori Kitchen and Bath to compete with larger chains that offer kitchen and bath accessories.

"Our prices are probably better. Our workmanship is better," Randy Santori said. "You're dealing with somebody that works with kitchens and baths every day and not somebody that works in the plumbing department and comes to help sell a cabinet.

"We have a good reputation. We have quality products and good customer service."

Randy Santori said word of mouth helped the business through the recent economic crunch.

"I think they've supported us very well. We appreciate it," Randy Santori said of support from Mid-Mon Valley customers. "I think we felt a hit, but not like a lot of people. We're always thinking of expansion, but right now, in these times, it's kind of hard to do."

Tricia Sanner said helping customers find just the right fit for their homes is most rewarding.

"I like helping people pick out their kitchens," she said. "I put it all together for them; all the colors and everything. It's nice after it's done when they call and they thank me."

Randy Santori said he first became involved in the family business working "odd jobs" at the age of 15.

"We were all in it since we were small," he said.

And yet another generation seems primed to take a stake in the business.

Randy Santori's 4-year-old grandson, Jacob, has frequently tried his hand in sales in the business showroom.

Tricia Sanner said the little salesman can't help recommending certain styles or colors to customers.

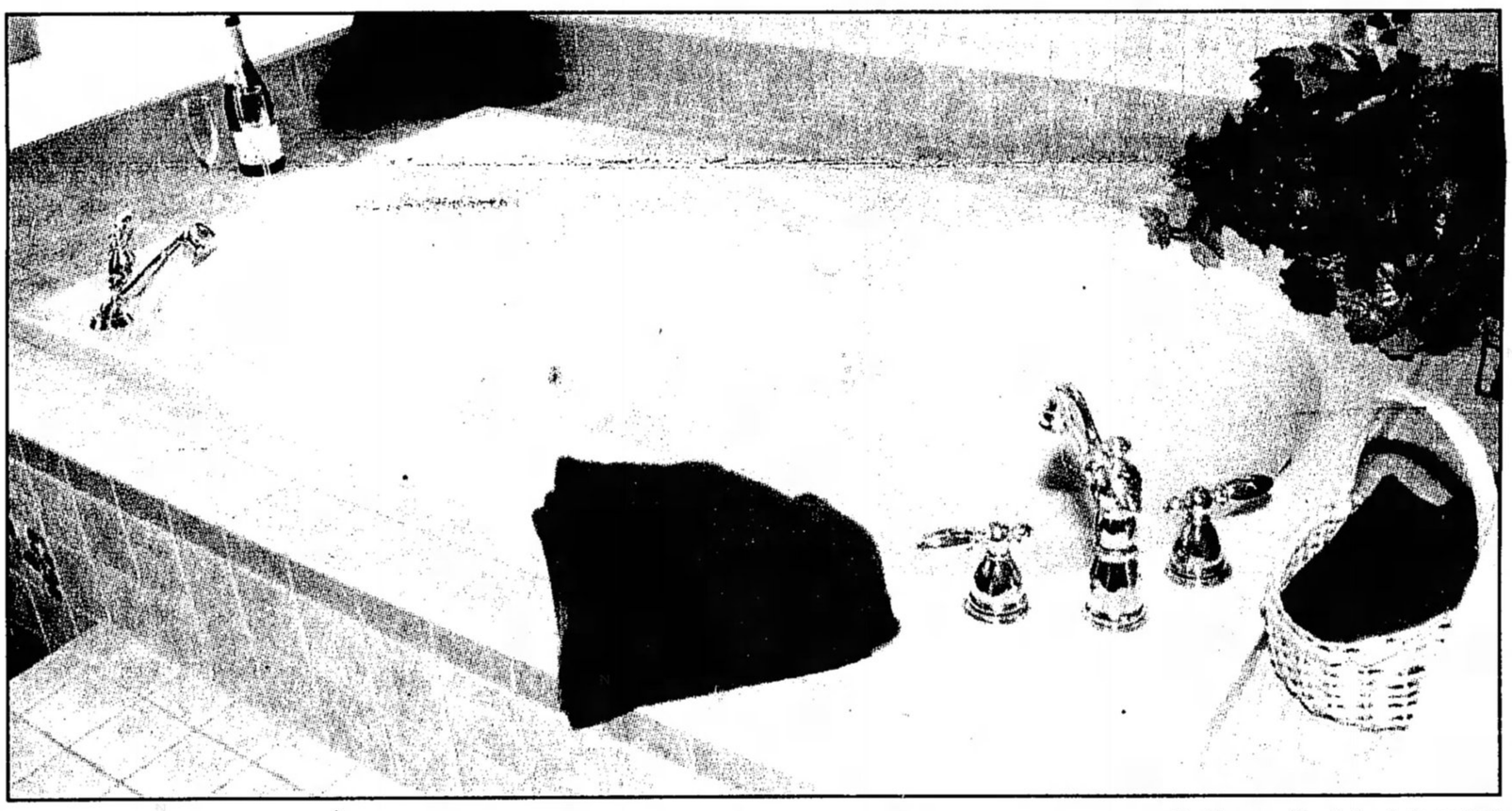
"He's showing them everything, saying, 'Look at this one. Isn't this nice? Do you wanna buy this?'" Sanner said. "He loves to look at samples with people."

"Hopefully, he's a doctor," Randy Santori said with a smile.

Santori Kitchen & Bath is located at 1119 Broad Ave. Extension in Rostraver Township.

It is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays.

The business can be reached at (724) 929-4737 or online at www.santorikitchenandbath.net.



Jim Ference/The Valley Independent

Santori Kitchen & Bath offers complete bathroom and kitchen renovations. There are numerous styles and varieties for customers to choose.

Valley Survivors

This weekly feature honors a "Valley Survivor" — one of the many Mid-Mon Valley businesses, organizations and institutions that began when the local economy was booming, survived the financial havoc created by the decline of the domestic steel industry and remain viable today.

Jim Ference/The Valley Independent

Randy Santori works closely with his daughter, Tricia Sanner, at the family-owned business.

Jim Ference/The Valley Independent

Santori Kitchen & Bath was started by Lewis Santori in 1934.

Confidence declines

Job security fears blamed for drop in September.

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK — Americans' worries about job security flared up in September, causing a widely watched barometer of consumer confidence to dip unexpectedly and raising more concern about the upcoming holiday shopping season and the overall economic recovery.

The New York-based Conference Board, a private research group, said that its Consumer Confidence Index dipped to 53.1 in September, down from the revised 54.5 reading in August. Economists surveyed by Thomson Reuters had expected a reading of 57.

The index had enjoyed a three-month climb fueled by signs that the economy might be stabilizing. That followed a historic low in February of 25.3 and a bumpy road after June as rising unemployment has caught up with shoppers.

A reading above 90 means the economy is on solid footing. Above 100 signals strong growth.

While the confidence index has doubled from the historic low in February, it's still about half of the historic average and below the 61.4 level right before the collapse of Lehman Brothers last fall.

Paul Dales, U.S. economist at Capital Economics Ltd, said that despite a rally in the stock market, shoppers are fixating on the job market and declining wages.

"Falling employment and incomes are undermining confidence and are likely to continue to do so," Dales wrote in a report released Tuesday. "Confidence is set to remain at fairly subdued levels," adding that consequently consumer spending will remain modest.

Mark Vitner, senior economist at Wells Fargo, noted that the unexpected decline in confidence raises concerns about holiday spending.

"Last year, consumers were shellshocked as they worried about what might happen to the economy. Today, shoppers ... don't have the means to step up spending," Vitner said.

Economists watch consumer sentiment because spending on goods and services for consumers, including housing and health care, accounts for about 70 percent of U.S. economic activity by federal measures.

The stock market gave back early gains after the confidence report was released. At midday, the Dow Jones industrials had fallen 37.56 points, or 0.4 percent, to 9,751.80.

Confidence, particularly its component measuring shopper' outlook, is considered a leading indicator and is a good barometer of spending levels over time, specifically for big-ticket items, according to Lynn Franco, director of The Conference Board Consumer Research Center.

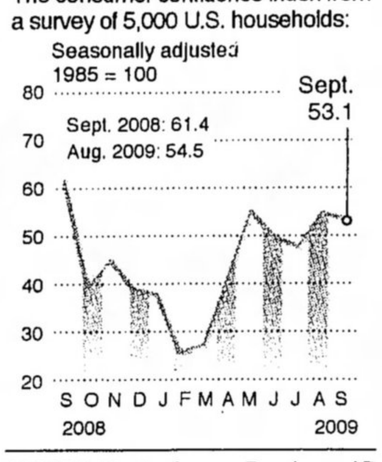
The Conference Board's Present Situation Index, which measures consumers' current assessment of the economy, declined to 22.7 from 25.4. The Expectations Index, which measures consumers' outlook over the next six months, dipped to 73.3 from 73.8 last month.

Recent economic data, from housing to manufacturing, has offered mixed signals but some evidence that an economic recovery might be slow.

According to a report issued Tuesday, the Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller home price index of 20 major cities rose 1.2 percent from June to a reading of 143.05. Though home prices are still 13.3 percent below July a year ago, the annual declines have slowed in all 20 cities for the sixth straight month.

Confidence dips

The consumer confidence index from a survey of 5,000 U.S. households:

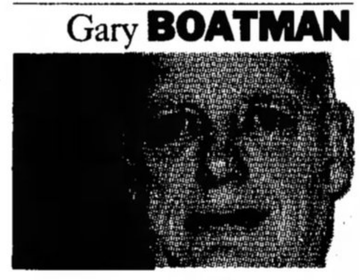


SOURCE: The Conference Board AP

Your Financial Future

Cut down on risk as retirement age nears

Gary **BOATMAN**



We have talked in the past about the importance of someone making adjustment to their portfolio to minimize risk as they approach retirement. This is important because these investors do not have the time to make up market losses that someone in their 30s does.

The mutual fund industry created target dated funds to attempt to achieve this goal. These funds are supposed to make automatic recalculations to your asset allocations. As you get closer to retirement, you would own fewer equities and more fixed income assets. Although this sounds pretty simple, a number of problems have become apparent lately.

One major problem is the definition of the target date? Is it "to" or "through"? There is a major difference. If you are retiring in 2010 and you are targeting "to" you would own a much smaller share of stocks and much larger share of fixed income assets.

Retirement is the target. If you are retiring in 2010 and have a "through" definition, you will own a more aggressive portfolio since the fund is considering all of your retirement time up to death. This will expose you to much bigger swings in assets values like we are seeing now.

This has become very important since this type of funds has become core holding of a large number of retirement plans. Congress and regulatory agencies are looking at some of these concerns. They feel there is not enough disclosure and too much risk for retirement money.

The law encouraged employers to enroll new employees automatically into their retirement savings plan and allow target dated funds to become an acceptable default option if the employee wasn't sure where to invest his or her money. This may not have proven to be a wise choice.

Target Date Analytics, a research firm, found that 31 funds with a 2010 target date lost an average of 25 percent. These funds had an average 45 percent stock allocation. These funds are not preserving capital, which is many people's intention at this time. Remember, money that you will need to consume in less than 10 years should probably not be exposed to market risk.

The idea is to protect against huge losses. Target-dated funds have not always achieved this goal. This can create a big problem for both fund participants and fiduciaries.

I believe there are better options to your distribution planning that more accurately reflect your individual situation. Your retirement should be integrated with all of your assets. Decisions should be made that are most tax advantaged, reflect your personal risk tolerance, budget for your special desires and needs.

There are too many moving parts to let a large part of your retirement assets to have a mind of its own. There is no automatic pilot because one size does not fit all. Also, these funds do not consider all possible asset classes and are subject to style drift as the fund manager tries to pump up overall returns. This happens in many mutual funds. Often you think you have more diversity than you actually do. There also may be more cost-efficient answers.

Gary Boatman, a local businessman who serves as president of the Greater Monessen Chamber of Commerce, is a certified financial planner.

To help you organize you financial life, we are offering a free 15-page Financial Workbook. This valuable tool helps to easily organize your finances and collects information in a way that helps your heirs. To get your free copy, e-mail your name and address to gwb. financial@comcast.net.

Oil prices drop to nearly $66 a barrel

By PABLO GORONDI
Associated Press Writer

Oil prices fell to near $66 a barrel Tuesday as European stock markets dropped slightly and investors awaited a slew of data on the U.S. economy.

By mid-afternoon in Europe, benchmark crude for November delivery was down 75 cents to $66.09 in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 82 cents Monday to settle at $66.84.

Regional stock markets, often a barometer of optimism about economic prospects, rebounded in Asia from a sharp fall Monday, but equities in Europe were mostly lower.

Gains by the dollar against other currencies also lessened the attractiveness to investors of commodities like oil and gold, which are priced in dollars.

Clergy Appreciation Month

PASTOR JOHN WILLIAMS
Gospel Church
Church Address, Pa
000-000-0000
Pastor, when we are sick or just need someone to talk to, you are always there for us. We are also blessed by your wife, Megan, in her teachings. We love you both.
YOUR CONGREGATION

EXAMPLE OF $30 AD AND YOUR MESSAGE (ACTUAL SIZE)

The Valley Independent will honor religious leaders in our monthly feature Jubilation on October 24th.

For just $30 or $45, you and members of your congregation can show your clergy how much they are appreciated with a "thank you" message and their picture or cross.

PASTOR MARK FERRENTIEN
Gospel Church
Church Address, Pa
000-000-0000
Pastor, when we are sick or just need someone to talk to, you are always there for us. We are also blessed by your wife, Kim, in her teachings. We love you both.
YOUR CONGREGATION

EXAMPLE OF $45 AD AND YOUR MESSAGE (ACTUAL SIZE)

Mail this coupon with your check or money order or simply fill out the Mastercard or Visa information below.
DEADLINE is October 21, 2008. PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

Name of Clergy Person _____
Church _____
Church's Address _____
_____
Church's Phone _____
Message _____
_____
_____
_____
Your Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Day Time Phone _____
Charge to my Visa _____ Mastercard _____
Card Number _____
Expiration Date _____
Signature _____

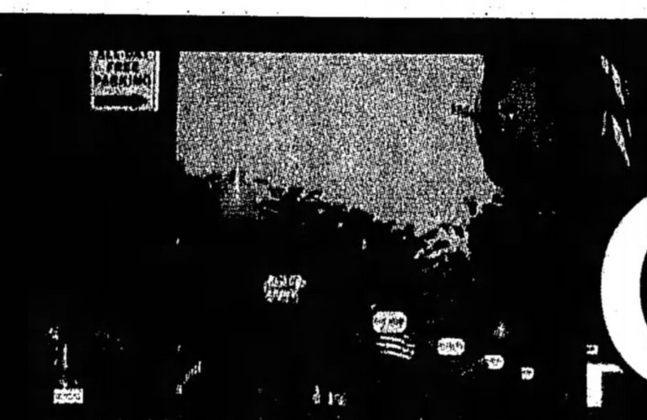
Mail, Drop Off, Or Fax To Attention: Roxanne Moreschi • rmoreschi@tribweb.com

The Valley Independent
EASTGATE 19 • MONESSEN, PA 15062
724-684-2606 • FAX 724-684-2602

Save a Lot
bring your family the best for less!
Prices Good Oct. 1st Thru Oct. 7th While Supplies Last

RIPE BANANAS 3 lbs for $1
MINI CARROTS 89¢ 1 LB.
ICEBERG LETTUCE 69¢ HEAD
HILLSHIRE KIELBASSI $1.88 14OZ. PKG.
15.5 Oz. HUNT'S MANWICH.....99¢
7-9 Oz Box Assorted CHEEZ-IT CRACKERS.....$1.99
42 Oz. OLD FASHIONED OR INSTANT OATS.....$1.89
64 Oz. CRANBERRY JUICE.....$2.49

Save a Lot
CHARLEROI 110 McKean • Mon. • Sat. 8AM - 8PM Sun. 9AM - 4PM
PERRYOPOLIS Rt. 51 • Mon. • Sat. 9AM - 8PM Sun. 9AM - 5PM
We Accept Checks, Debit And Credit Cards
★ 100% Guaranteed
Our exclusive, custom-made brands are comparable to (and sometimes better than) nationally-recognized name brand products. You can be assured you'll like what you buy - or your money back.



Valley INDEPENDENT

TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

CLASSIFIED

EASTGATE 19, MONESSEN, PA 15062
MONDAY-FRIDAY 8:30AM-5:00PM

VALLEYINDEPENDENT.COM 724.684.5200 FAX: 724.684.2602

RECRUITMENT

DAILY: 1:30PM, Day Prior
MONDAY: 4:30PM, Friday
SUNDAY: 11AM, Wednesday

MERCHANDISE

4 LINES 4 DAYS $14.30 PRE-PAY.
7 LINES 7 DAYS $20.00 PRE-PAY
DAILY: 1:30PM, Day Prior
MONDAY: 4:30PM, Friday
SUNDAY: 11AM, Wednesday

GARAGE SALES

5 LINES 3 DAYS $18.65 PRE-PAY
10 LINES 3 DAYS $21.00 PRE-PAY
DAILY: 1:30PM, Day Prior
MONDAY: 4:30PM, Friday
SUNDAY: 11AM, Wednesday

SERVICE DIRECTORY

3 LINES • 30 DAYS
$59.77 PRE-PAY
DAILY: 1:30PM, Day Prior
MONDAY: 4:30PM, Friday
SUNDAY: 11AM, Wednesday

AUTOMOTIVE

4 LINES • 26 DAYS
$34.78 PRE-PAY PRIVATE PARTY ONLY
DAILY: 1:30PM, Day Prior
MONDAY: 4:30PM, Friday
SUNDAY: 11AM, Wednesday

RUN UNTIL IT SELLS!

4 LINES

PRIVATE PARTY MERCHANDISE ONLY. NO BUSINESSES, AUTOS, BOATS, RV'S, REAL ESTATE, MOBILE HOMES OR APARTMENTS.
ASKING PRICE OF ITEM IS REDUCED EVERY TWO WEEKS BY 5%
$19.45 PRE-PAY
DAILY: 1:30PM, Day Prior
MONDAY: 4:30PM, Friday
SUNDAY: 11AM, Wednesday

LEGALS

DAILY: NOON, 2 Weekdays Prior To Publication
SUNDAY: 11AM, Wednesday

PRE-PAY WITH VISA MasterCard DISCOVER

GENERAL INFORMATION: The Tribune-Review Publishing Company reserves the right to edit or reject any advertising copy and determine the correct classification of any advertisement. MISPRINTS: Notice of error should be reported to the Classified Department immediately. The Tribune-Review Publishing Company will not be responsible for more than the cost of that part of an ad rendered valueless by the error. CONFIDENTIALITY: Confidential box numbers -- we do not disclose the name of any advertiser using our classified pages. Persons answering File Number ads who wish to protect their identity can do so as follows: Place your reply in an envelope addressed to the File Box at the Valley Independent Classified Department, Eastgate 19, Monessen, PA 15062. Include the file number and a list of firms or persons you DO NOT want your reply to reach. If the advertiser is anyone you've listed, we'll destroy your reply. NOTICE: All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin, familial status or handicaps, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. The paper accepts only recruitment advertising meeting EOE standards. The newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising which is in violation of the law.

DIRECTORY
personal care facilities

DONORA

LINDA'S PERSONAL CARE HOME. 3 beds open. Home cooked meals, 24/7 care. Vets welcome. 724-823-0340.

FAYETTE CITY

COUNTRY CARE MANOR personal care at it's best! One level, separate Dementia Wing, all brick const., country setting, 5+ acres. Affordable. 724-326-4909.

To Place An Ad
For Your Personal Care Facility, Call The Classified Dept. at
(724) 684-5200 or Fax (724) 684-2602.

1000/GEN/RECRUITMENT

MAINTENANCE- full-time, daylight hours. Apply in person: Country Care Manor, Fayette City 724-326-4909.

MH/MR Support Staff
Laurel Highlands Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization that supports persons with MH/MR developmental disabilities, currently seeking full & part-time support staff to work in our community homes in the West Newton, Turkeytown Rd., New Stanton & Elizabeth areas. No experience necessary. Paid training. Must be at least 18 years of age and have valid PA driver's license. Starting rate is $8.63/hour with benefits after 90 days, increase to $8.86/hr. after 6 months. EOE. Call ONLY Mon.-Fri., 9-3pm. 412-825-9141.

ADVERTISE IN OUR GARAGE SALE SECTION AND USE YOUR GARAGE FOR YOUR CAR AGAIN 724-684-2612

1000/GEN/RECRUITMENT

MON VALLEY JOB FAIR THURS., OCT. 1st 10AM-2PM
Rostraver Fire Hall Fells Church Rd., Belle Vernon. Off Rts. 51 & 201.
Free Bus Transportation For info. 724-379-4750

NOTICE TO READERS:
While work-at-home and other informational advertising is often legitimate, we advise readers to fully investigate the background of any company before paying a fee. If an offer sounds "too good to be true", it probably is. Proceed with caution if you are asked to send money or in calling 900 numbers. All phone numbers prefixed by "900" are charged to the caller on a per minute or per call basis. The Valley Independent makes every effort to qualify these charges for the reader. Remember, if you have any doubts, investigate!

QUALITY CONTROL
Earn up to $100/day. Evaluate retail stores. Training provided. No experience required. Call 877-618-0702

SURFACE MOUNT TECH
Local company seeking candidates with surface mount exp. 2-2-3 sched. Wage based on exp. Clean background & drug test req. 1-877-522-5567.

1025/DRIVERS

★ DRIVERS ★
Immediate Openings
Class A & B Drivers
Local and OTR
Competitive Wage & Benefit Package
Also Needed
CLASS C LABORERS
Call 1-800-537-3152

1040/MEDICAL

NURSE'S AIDE all shifts. Apply in person: Country Care Manor, Fayette City 724-326-4909.

1050/SALES

OUTSIDE SALES REPS
Full or Part Time
Flexible Hours
Excellent Income Potential

We are looking for aggressive, results-oriented salespeople to join our team to market Home Delivery of
Tribune-Review Publishing Company
Crew leader, storefront and door-to-door positions are available.
Please call 412-610-6378
9am-5:30pm Monday
8am-3pm Tues. & Wed.
8am-12 Thursday
Closed Friday

1110/BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

★ CAR WASH ★
FOR SALE
412-638-1471
or 412-427-1851

CHARLEROI CARRIER WANTED
• 600's Crest Ave.
• 500's-900's Meadow
30 Papers - Mon.-Sat.
No Collections
CALL 724-684-2648

LOAN WANTED
I'm looking for loan of $4,200 at 8% over 42 months with payback at $114.76 mo. total interest $620. I own 2 homes & 1 auto. 724-234-5558.

2010/ESTATE NOTICES

Musial, Eleanor
ESTATE NOTICE

Letters testamentary on the estate of ELEANOR MUSIAL, late of The City of Monessen, Westmoreland County, deceased, having been granted by the Register of Wills of Westmoreland County, notice is hereby given to all persons indebted to said estate to make immediate payment, and to those having claims against the same to present them without delay to

Elayne S. Busovicki, Executrix
1401 Poplar Avenue
Indiana, PA 15701

C.J. SOKOLSKI, ESQ.
1324 State Road
Monessen, PA 15062
9/16,23,30

LOOKING FOR A NEW RIDE? FIND IT HERE. CLASSIFIEDS WORK!

2020/BID NOTICES

NOTICE

Public notice is hereby given that the Municipal Authority of the City of Monongahela will receive sealed bids at the Authority's Office, 521 West Main Street, Monongahela, PA 15063 until 4:00 P.M. prevailing time on Thursday, October 15, 2009 for the following Contract:

OFFICE BUILDING ROOF AND DOOR REPLACEMENT CONTRACT NO. 2009-04

Plans and specifications are on file at the office of the Municipal Authority of the City of Monongahela and at the office of Chester Engineers, 260 Airside Drive, Moon Township, Pennsylvania 15108-2793. Bids may not qualify any of the specifications. Immediately after the closing time for receipt of bids, all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Authority Offices.

Copies of the plans and specifications for this Contract may be purchased for $50.00 per set, nonrefundable, from Chester Engineers.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities in the bidding.

Municipal Authority of the City of Monongahela
9/30

2030/MEETING NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Act 32 of 2008, a meeting of the Tax Collection Committee, those individuals duly appointed to represent the governing body of each municipality and school district in the County of Washington's tax collection district, will be held in the cafeteria of Trinity High School, 231 Park Avenue, Washington, Pennsylvania, on Thursday, October 29, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to elect a chairperson, vice-chairperson and a secretary for the Tax Collection Committee.

WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:
Larry Maggi
Bracken Burns
Diana L. Irey

ATTEST:
Mary E. Helicke
Chief Clerk
9/30

4010/CEMETERY LOTS

2 LEVEL LOTS at MV Memorial Park in Well of Semaria section, near main road, across from old school. $945 for both. 724-929-4578

4070/LOST & FOUND

FIND SOMETHING?
LOSE SOMETHING?
Place your lost & found ad FREE. Runs 4 days at no charge. Call 724-684-5200.

4100/PERSONALS

$195 DIVORCE COMPLETE
No-Fault Uncontested
Reisman & Davis, Pgh
-No Court Appearance or Travel To Office
-Free Information
1-800-486-4070 24Hrs

ALONE & PREGNANT?
A Confidential Caring Friend
Free Pregnancy Test
LIFELINE OF S.W. PA
Call Hotline 24 Hrs.
724-489-9020

4130/EVENT TICKETS

WWE TICKET (1) for Sunday, October 25, floor seating. $175. Call 724-684-3856.

5000/APPAREL & JEWELRY

BOYS/GIRLS band t-shirts $3 ea. Hoodies $5 ea. Leave message 724-288-5641.

BOYS all seasons clothing size 10/12, 2 bags, $10.00 Call 724-483-1801.

CHILDREN'S CLOTHING 25 items, sizes 2-6X, $25.00. Call 724-938-6816.

CLOTHES-girls fall name brand sizes 10, 12, 14 tops & bottoms. $2 ea. 724-379-6663 or 724-516-1845.

LOOKING FOR A DREAM JOB? FIND IT HERE. CLASSIFIEDS WORK!

LOOKING FOR A FRIEND? CHECK THE PET DIRECTORY. CLASSIFIEDS WORK! TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

5000/APPAREL & JEWELRY

CLOTHES- name brand fall boys size 8 tops & bottoms. $2 ea. 724-379-6663 / 516-1845.

GIRLS CLOTHES size 7/8, large garbage bag for $45.00. Call 724-366-7028.

5010/APPLIANCES

DISHWASHER Kenmore under-the-counter, like new $75. Leave msg. 412-853-6600.

5020/ARTICLES

2 PLAYER Pop A Shot Basketball Game 7ft. tall, $75.00. Call 724-483-1801.

TRIB TOTAL MEDIA
All Private Party Ads are now PREPAID
What this means for you:
• NO BILLS
• NO STAMPS
• EASY & IMMEDIATE AD PLACEMENT
We accept Cash, Check and all Major Credit Cards. Call to place your ad TODAY!

AMISH made sunflower napkin holder & apple butter churn $5 ea. 724-288-5641.

Collectors' items?
Place them in *The Valley Independent* classifieds and collect cash instead of dust.
To place an ad call 724.684.5200
The Valley Independent Classifieds

FIND IT FIRST AND QUICK IN THE VALLEY INDEPENDENT

Service Directory

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AND BUSINESSES IN THE MID-MON VALLEY

APPLIANCE PARTS

CHARLEROI SWEEPER vacuums - repairs - parts. 618 Fallowfield Ave. 724-483-3397.

APPLIANCE PICKUP

APPLIANCE PICKUP & HAUL. Call 724-684-4432 or 724-797-0644

APPLIANCE REPAIR

APPLIANCE REPAIR Center. Call 724-684-4432 or 724-797-0644.

WASHER & DRYER repair. Furnace tune-ups. Call 724-872-5389.

ASPHALT

DRIVEWAY Paving-asphalt sealer coatings. Free est. Jim Lovell. 724-925-6498 or 724-635-0054.

AUTO GLASS

PRECISION AUTO GLASS Locally owned auto glass co. Repair & replacement. Fully ins. Mobile will come to your home or office. All insurances accepted. 1-800-246-7044.

AUTO SERVICE/REPAIRS

GRECO'S Automotive Services. PA Enhanced emisson testing, remanufacture used motors & trans. installed, head gaskets, clutches, computer diagnostic, major auto repair. Insured. 724-938-2911, 800-640-2902. ASE Certified

AUTO SERVICE/REPAIRS, CONT'D.

T-I-R-E SAVINGS ! MAINTENANCE ! All Jobs Big & Small ! All Makes & Models ! BUY - SELL - TRADE TOTALLY TRUSTED TREGEMBO MOTORS BENTLEYVILLE tregembomotors.com 724-239-2200

WEIDMAN TRANSMISSIONS Import Specialist, Domestic, Heavy Equipment & Allison Trucks. Call Jim 412-384-4822.

BUILDING MATERIALS

RAILROAD TIES All Grades & Sizes Call 724-489-1180

CARPETING

CALL Carpeting Unlimited for a personal evening viewing of new flooring in your home. Carpet, hardwood, ceramic, cork, formica & vinyl. Tues. - Wed. -Thurs., 8am - 4pm or by appt. 724-258-4845.

CARPET CLEANING

CLEANS GREAT & dries quickly. NO SOAKING! Call Tri County Chem Dry 724-483-9553.

MILLER'S Magic Carpet Cleaning. Whole house special $139*. Clean 4 areas for only $109. Powerful truck mounted units. 724-483-2370.

CLEANING SERVICES

SPOTLESS CLEANING general/housecleaning at it's best. Dependable. References. 724-872-1089.

CLEANING SERVICES

CLEAN SWEEP- cash for your unwanteds. Buyouts, single items or entire estates. Also auction service. Call Sal 724-797-4622.

COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL CONST.

TECHSET LLC General Construction. No Job Too Small. Free Estimates. Call Lloyd @ 724-736-4770.

CONCRETE & BLOCK

DAVIS Landscaping & Trucking doing exposed & stamped concrete, all block walls, porches, walks, driveways & floors. 14 yrs. craftsmanship. No job too big or too small. 724-258-8939.

ELECTRICAL

JACK'S ELECTRICAL Contracting. Specializing in older homes. More than 25 years. Free est. 724-489-9109.

O&O ELECTRIC- new & old work. Free est., fully ins. Alan 724-433-2183.

ENTERTAINMENT

DJ/Karaoke Service Clubs, Parties, Events karaokekenny.com or 724-684-4930.

EXCAVATING & LANDSCAPING

Retaining Walls Built, Sewer & Water Lines, Landscaping Supplies 724-562-0362 (cell) or 724-379-5115.

FENCING

DON'S FENCE chain link, wood, vinyl, hand rails & all your fencing needs. Free est. rea. rates. 724-929-3218.

FIREWOOD

SPLIT, SEASONED 1/2 cord, $65 full cord, $130 Call 724-640-5277.

CORDWOOD - Cut & Split Firewood Delivered on Dump. 724-628-9435.

FIREWOOD unsplit. Perry/Belle Vernon area. We will load. Call 412-855-9615.

FLOOR INSTALLATION

ROBERT HANNAN vinyl, hardwood, carpeting, ceramic. Ins. Guaranteed. 724-929-4330.

GLASS BLOCK

GLASS BLOCK Panels made to fit any opening, installation avail. 724-379-4255.

HAIR

SNOBALL'S "For the latest trends in hair and make-up, bring your family to ours." (724) 489-1669.

HANDYPERSON

TOTAL Home Repair. 35 years experience. Call A! 724-205-8406.

DEE'S CONTRACTING- 30 yrs. exp. Int./Ext. Free est. Insured. 724-510-2171.

HAULING

HAULING cleanouts, cleaning, yard/shrub work, some moving. Dep., ins. Rich 724-872-0865, 1-800-566-4167.

HAULING CONTINUED

CLEAN OUT whole house, basements, stores, attics, sheds. Scrap metal hauled. 724-483-2140.

HERK'S HAULING Stone, Cleanouts, etc. No job too small! 724-929-9013.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

STASKO Restoration all your home needs. Int. & Ext. const. & renovations. 724-258-2473.

CCS INC. All home improvements. Free est. Calls will be returned. 724-348-6276.

RAINEY ENTERPRISE Quality work at a reasonable price. Garage pkg's., additions, new construction, renovations, siding, soffit & fascia, roofing, concrete, retaining walls. 724-929-8733.

HOME REPAIR

HANDYMAN MATTERS Bonded & Insured. BBB. PA:000215 724-258-4884.

LANDSCAPING SUPPLIES

LYNCH Landscape Supply. Topsoil, mulches, mushroom composte, deco stone, river stone, limestone, sand, Keystone, retaining walls & more. Venetia 724-348-5518. Belle Vernon 724-929-2177.

LANDSCAPING SUPPLIES CONTINUED

TOPSOIL 24/7 Screened & Non-Screened. Call 724-938-0453

LAUNDROMATS

Bentleyville - 721 Main St. OPEN 24 HOURS 412-215-0661.

LAWN & LANDSCAPING

Call XTREME LANDSCAPING for all your lawn & landscaping needs. LOW RATES. Free est. 724-350-7357 or 724-684-8108.

DAVIS Landscaping & Trucking. Retaining walls, all types concrete, trim, edge, remulching, all types drain work. No job too big or too small. 724-258-8939.

LAWN MOWER REPAIR

BECK'S Repair all makes of push & riding mowers, rototillers, saws, snow blowers, gas & diesel farm tractors. Pick up & del. 724-258-4140.

LAWN SERVICE

LAWNS & shrubbery cut, trimmed, mulch, garden tilling. Free est. Ins. 724-258-3407.

AFFORDABLE Lawn Care. Best Rates. Senior Disc. 724-396-0660.

Service Directory Ads Work. For Only $59.77 per month. Call 724-684-5200.

LAWN SERVICE CONTINUED

LEAFS LEAFS LEAFS fall clean-up, grass cutting, pruning, mulching & shrubs. Call Pristine Lawn Care for guaranteed best rates 724-797-4622 Sal.

MASONRY/CONCRETE

John Yurkovich Masonry. Retaining walls, sidewalks, patios, steps, driveways, chimneys, garages. Fully ins., free est. 724-628-7349. Cell: 814-853-7069. PA1637

MOVING and STORAGE

FRETZ TRANSFER 724-684-8499, 724-929-6869 & Fretz Mini Warehouse 724-684-6602, Manessen. Local moving & storage.

PAINTING

BOB's - Professional painting at rea. prices. New home const., ptg. & staining. Sr. Cit. Disc. Fully ins. 724-929-6595, 929-9313.

M.V. PAINTING - Int. & ext. Experienced & Insured. Free est. Will beat any reasonable price. 724-929-1620.

INT. EXT. painting. Exp'd., insured, free est., affordable. Michael Lundy. 724-292-9004.

EVANS PAINTING Voted Valley Favorite. Int. & ext. ptg. 724-344-4984, 724-489-4457.

Tregembo Motors

Business Listing Under AUTO SERVICE/REPAIRS

PLASTERING

PLASTERING - New/repair work. Hardcoat/drywall fin. Barry Winters. 724-929-9765.

PLUMBING

GRECO PLUMB. Sewers opened, sewer, gas, water line installation, basement water proofing, water tanks. Prof. service. 724-684-4439, 379-8197.

QUICK RESPONSE Plumbing. Heat/AC. Registered Master. Certified gas line installer. Expert sewer cleaning. Ins. 866-732-4433 or 724-258-7724

LENDWAY & SONS General Plumbing. 724-348-4644, 724-379-4962.

WATER HEATER problems? Call Tom Patterson your Rheem Water Heater Specialist. 724-929-6797.

Service Directory Ads Work. For Only $59.77 per month. Call 724-684-5200.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Need help renting your property out? We're expanding our Property Management Department. Call Tom Simon Howard Hanna Simon Real Estate Services 724-929-9699

ROOFING

LARRY'S CONT. reasonable, reliable, new roofs & repairs, gutters cleaned, prompt service. 724-483-3117.

ROOFING, siding, windows, doors, additions, garages, porch roofs, decks, gutters. Michael Smaracheck 724-469-6560.

LENDWAY & SONS ROOFING, siding, decks & additions. 724-348-4644, 724-379-4962.

SEPTIC CLEANING

MG SEPTIC & Drain Cleaning. Fair Prices. For professional service you won't want to miss! Call Joseph Manack anytime. 724-929-8152.

TREE REMOVAL

3G'S TREES & stump removal. Bucket Truck Service. Free est., fully ins. 724-489-4180, 724-483-6205.

TREE PRO - tree removal specialist. Best deals! Free est. Henry. 724-929-6097 724-797-4944.

TREE & STUMP Removal. Free est. Ins'd. Gregg 724-258-8360.

TREE SERVICE

TREECISION Free est., Ins. Danger tree specialist. 724-288-3904 or 724-797-2204.

Service Directory Ads Work. For Only $59.77 per month. Call 724-684-5200.

WINDOWS

DHCS Windows & Doors. $185 window install. 724-797-1486.

GARAGE SALES

5310/GARAGE/YARD SALES

FALLOWFIELD TWP. 95 Fremont Road. Sat., Oct 3, 8-12. Large variety of items.

N.CHARLEROI- 527 Isabella Ave. Large yard sale, lots to see. Fri. & Sat., Oct. 2 & 3, 8am-5pm.

5310/GARAGE/YARD SALES

MONESSEN Estate Sale Fri. & Sat., Oct. 2 & 3, 8-3. 810 Crest Dr. Pyrex/Corningware, clothes, furniture, small appliances, costume jewelry, tools, and much more. No Presale.

2060/GOVERNMENT NOTICES

NOTICE OF HEARING
ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP
ZONING HEARING BOARD
TO CITIZENS OF
ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP

THE ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP ZONING HEARING BOARD WILL HOLD A PUBLIC MEETING AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 201 MUNICIPAL DRIVE, BELLE VERNON, PENNSYLVANIA 15012 ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2009 AT 6:30 P.M. TO HEAR THE FOLLOWING CASES.

1. Thomas Kelly, 870 Rostraver Road, Belle Vernon, PA 15012 is requesting a Variance for parking. The applicants' proposed use is parking for Millers Auto Parts store. The property is located at 870 Rostraver Road and is presently zoned B-2.

2. E. Daniel and Louise Matty, 437 Matty Drive, Belle Vernon, PA 15012 is requesting a Yard Variance. The applicants' proposed use is to construct a home addition. The property is located at 437 Matty Drive and is presently zoned R-2.

3. Russell F. and Louise E. Lynn, 603 Todd Farm Road, Belle Vernon, PA 15012 and Atlas Resources, LLC, 800 Mountain View Drive, Smithfield, PA 15478 are requesting a Special Exception. The applicants' proposed use is to drill a gas well. The property is located off Todd Farm Road and is presently zoned A-1.

4. Rodney F. and Joan K. Smith, 167 Porter Road, Belle Vernon, PA 15012 and Atlas Resources, LLC, 800 Mountain View Drive, Smithfield, PA 15478 are requesting a Special Exception. The applicants' proposed use is to drill three (3) gas wells. The property is located off Porter Road and is presently zoned A-1.

5. Mary C. Jenion, Living Trust, 915 McClintock Avenue, Belle Vernon, PA 15012 and Atlas Resources, LLC, 800 Mountain View Drive, Smithfield, PA 15478 are requesting a Special Exception. The applicants' proposed use is to drill a gas well. The property is located off Crawford Lane and is presently zoned A-1.

6. Floro LLC/Margorie Floro, 3051 Rio Dosa Drive #102, Lexington, KY 40509 and Atlas Resources LLC, 800 Mountain View Drive, Smithfield, PA 15478 are requesting a Special Exception. The applicants' proposed use is to drill two (2) gas wells. The property is located off SR 981 and is presently zoned A-1.

7. Framar, Inc., 424 Jamie Drive, Belle Vernon, PA 15012 and Atlas Resources, LLC, 800 Mountain View Drive, Smithfield, PA 15478 are requesting a Special Exception. The applicants' proposed use is to drill three (3) gas wells. The property is located off SR 981 and is presently zoned A-1.

8. Abell Development Co., L.P., 835 East Pittsburgh St., Greensburg, PA 15601 is requesting Variances for setbacks for access road and parking spaces. The applicants' proposed use is to subdivide hotel from office building land. The property is located at 1525 Broad Avenue Extension and is presently zoned B-2.

9. William and Crystal Mason, 181 Shilo Lane, Belle Vernon, PA 15012 are requesting a Special Exception for a Home Occupation and a Variance for truck parking. The applicants' proposed use is a home office. The property is located at 181 Shilo Lane and is presently zoned R-1.

All parties interested or wishing to be heard are invited to attend.

**NOTE: The applicant(s)/their representative MUST ATTEND this hearing in order for action to be taken on the request.

John Bedell, Secretary
Rostraver Township Zoning Hearing Board
Municipal Building
201 Municipal Drive
Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania 15012
9/30;10/7

2060/GOVERNMENT NOTICES

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the Board of Commissioners, Township of Rostraver that a proposed amendment to Ordinance No. 421 and Zoning Map dated August 1970 of the Township of Rostraver has been prepared as recommended by the Rostraver Township Planning Agency. The proposed Zoning Ordinance and proposed Zoning Map may be examined at the Rostraver Township Municipal Building, 201 Municipal Drive, Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania 15012, during regular business hours. A Public Hearing on the said proposed Zoning Ordinance will be held by the Board of Commissioners on Wednesday, October 7, 2009 at 6:00 p.m., current time, at the Township of Rostraver Municipal Building. The proposed amendment pertains to the following:

BILL NO.: 593
ORDINANCE NO.: 593
INTRODUCED BY:
FIRST READING:
FINAL READING:
ADOPTED:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 421 THE CODIFICATION ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ROSTRAVER, AMENDING ZONING REGULATIONS FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF ROSTRAVER, AND AMENDING THE TOWNSHIP OF ROSTRAVER ZONING MAP.

WHEREAS, the Township of Rostraver Planning Agency has proposed amendments to the Township of Rostraver Ordinance No. 421 and the Township of Rostraver Zoning Map dated August 1970, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Rostraver has held a Public Hearing in accordance with Chapter 195 of Ordinance No. 421, after due notice, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Rostraver deems the amendment hereinafter set forth in conformity with the objectives of the Township's Community Development and the objectives of Ordinance No. 421.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby ordained by the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Rostraver in Monthly Meeting assembled as follows:

The Township of Rostraver Ordinance No. 421 adopted February 23, 2000 and Zoning Map dated August 1970 are hereby amended in the following respects:

1. The area of land described on Schedule "A" attached hereto and made a part thereof by reference thereto is hereby changed and amended from "R-2 Suburban Residential" to "B-2 Retail Business".

The Township of Rostraver Zoning Map dated August 1970, copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof by reference thereto, amended, is hereby changed in order to reflect the amendments set forth in Paragraph 1 of this Ordinance and the Township of Rostraver Engineer is directed to make the appropriate changed on said Zoning Map.

ORDAINED AND ENACTED as an Ordinance of the Township of Rostraver this the day of , 2009.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TOWNSHIP OF ROSTRAVER

BY: Nick LORENZO, President

ATTEST:

Pamela S. BEARD, Township Secretary

ATTACHMENT "A"

Tax Map No. 56-08-02-0-022

All that certain tract, piece or parcel of land situate in ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, and being described in the official Tax Maps of Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, as Map No. 56-08-02-0-022 consisting of LOTS according to the assessment records of Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, which records also indicate that title to the premises became vested in the above named owners or reputed owners by virtue of an instrument recorded at 3783/0248.

The proposed use is for electrical and landscape business.

The above property is owned by Kevin R. Krise.
9/23,30

5020/ARTICLES

BEDSPREAD- full, throw pillow & sham, matching lined drapes. Rose. $40. 724-379-5349.

BIRD CAGE- used for decoration purposes only, $200. Call 724-929-4980.

BLACK BIRD CAGE medium size $10.00
Call
724-483-1801.

5020/ARTICLES

CHRISTMAS GLASSES- variety of 50, with gold trim & holy decoration. $1 each. 724-929-4980

DORM REFRIGERATOR $40.00
Call
724-929-3742.

FREE (5) coin operated cigarette machines, Rowe coin operated candy/chip machine, 30+ slots. 724-684-8088.

FURNACE PIPES- single, $50. Call 724-483-2369.

FUSE BOX- new service entrance Federal Pacific 100 amp. $20. Call 724-929-8108.

HOME INTERIOR apple picture, $10.00. Leave message 724-288-5641.

LAMPS, large living room lamp, cranberry/green, exc. $50. 724-288-5641.

MICROWAVE Carousel $50.00
Call
724-929-3742.

MICROWAVE good condition, $20.00
Call
724-797-0895.

PICNIC TABLE with umbrella, portable. New, in box. $70. Call 724-929-4980

PLAQUE little boy's room says Jeff's Room w/teddy bear, all wood, $10. 724-288-5641.

POLICE SCANNER- 200 channel. Radio Shack. $60. Call 724-314-3306

POOL TABLE regulation size and accessories, $150.00. Call 724-929-7961.

SWAN VASE- new in box, beautiful $50; also little red WAGON, $50. Call 724-929-4980.

TV- 36" flat picture tube w/stand, great picture. $100. 724-483-1805.

TV 36" Sony WEGA FD Trinitron $150.00 firm
Call
724-258-7946.

TWIST SLIDE for wooden swing set, excellent condition. $200. 724-510-1466.

5060/COMPUTERS

COMPUTER MONITOR- $10. 724-314-3306.

5080/EXERCISE EQUIPMENT

WEIGHT SET complete, etc. $75.00
Call
724-797-0895.

5110/FOOD

ANGUS
FREEZER BEEF
All Grain Fed
Call 724-345-3302

VEGETABLES

Tomatoes: canning $20/bushel & Roma's $24/bushel. Potatoes: red, white & gold, $16/bushel; plus many other canning vegetables available. Duda's Farm 724-246-7601.

5130/FURNITURE

2 BED FRAMES- maple colored wooden, storage. Good condition. $70 each or $125 both. 724-326-8311.

BEDROOM SUIT- 6 pc. walnut, excellent condition. $300. Call 724-812-2078.

CHAIR- living room, like new, $100; & chrome & glass END TABLES, $50. 724-483-1805.

COFFEE TABLE, end table, glass top with oak legs, $50. Call 724-929-5446.

CURIO- oak trimmed, very nice. Must see to appreciate. $300. Call 724-929-4980.

TODDLER BED complete, white, removable side rails $25.00. Call 724-938-6816.

5180/MUSICAL

BUGLES Old Drum Corps $40.00 & $50.00
Call
724-326-5556.

CLARINET Bundy excellent, $165. 724-929-4538 or cell 724-875-9235.

FLUTE Artley excellent, $140. Call 724-929-4538 or cell 724-875-9235.

TRUMPET Case, accessories, all perfect cond. $150. 724-929-4538 or cell 724-875-9235.

REAL ESTATE

3045/FOR SALE/FAYETTE

BELLE VERNON- for sale by owner. 2 bedroom, new kitchen, furnace, roof & hot water tank. Nice area. $37,500. 724-322-5129

3060/FOR SALE/WASH.

CHARLEROI 2 bedroom, 2 story frame in a very friendly neighborhood. Many updates include new deck, roof & windows & has been well maintained. 1st time buyers who qualify for $8,000 tax credit will find this hard to pass up! $58,000.

CARROLL TWP. 3 bedroom brick Colonial ranch. One level living with extras! Sun room, finished basement with extra kitchen, 2 fireplaces, level front yard & fenced back yard. 1 car garage. $148,500.

Century 21
FRONTIER REALTY
724-929-2180

CHARLEROI Attention Investors! High traffic storefront and 4 apts. already rented in downtown. Many updates include new furnace & flooring. Separate utilities. $64,900.

DONORA New Price. Live in one and rent the other! Great 3 bedroom home with attached garage. Shared yard with second house. Collect the rent to pay the mortgage! Steal of a deal! $52,500.

Century 21
FRONTIER REALTY
724-483-3004

DUNLEVY 3 BR, 2 ½ bath, gameroom, pool, garage, totally remodeled. Asking $187,000. 724-489-9331.

MONONGAHELA

Beautiful 3 bedroom, wood burning fireplace, living & dining rooms, den, large kitchen, full bath, covered porch & deck, large private yard, off-street parking, nice neighborhood. Access to public transportation & boating. Newer furnace & windows w/window treatments, new paint & carpet. Ringgold Schools. Only $64,900. 724-366-2091

LOOKING FOR A FRIEND? CHECK THE PET DIRECTORY. CLASSIFIEDS WORK! TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

3065/FOR SALE/WMLD.

MONESSEN

Great Eastgate area ranch. Fresh paint, new electric, central air. Wow, only $24,900. See it now! $24,900.

ROSTRAVER

Super level fenced acre. All utilities available. 2 car garage. Close to Cedar Creek. Build now! $59,900.

NORTHWOOD REALTY SERVICES
724-929-1370

ROSTRAVER

3 bedroom, all brick, 2/3 acre double lot, pool, walk to all schools, stunning inside & out. $229,900. Call 724-929-3325 or see at www.paopenhouse.com

3066/FOR SALE/OTHER

PAM'S PEARLS NEW LISTINGS:

Starter 2 story in Perry. Large eat-in appliance kitchen, 1st floor laundry, rear deck & level yard. $59,900.

Well constructed brick/redwood sided multi level on Pleasant Dr. in Monessen. Fantastic view, open floor plan, secluded rear deck & integral garage. $99,500.

Ask for Pam Drake
724-880-4537
COLDWELL BANKER TRI-COUNTY REALTY
724-929-8866

ROSTRAVER-Charming 2 bedroom Cape Cod. Well maintained. Completely updated. Reduced to $89,900.

UNION TWP.-3 bedroom brick, 2 story. Family room, 1 car garage. Above ground pool. Reduced to $99,921.

MONONGAHELA-Just listed this 3 bedroom Tudor in the Mounds area. Off street parking. Call for appt. $94,921.

Century 21
FRONTIER REALTY
724-348-7470

LOOKING FOR A DREAM JOB? FIND IT HERE. CLASSIFIEDS WORK!

3540/APTS-RENT/FAYETTE

FAYETTE CITY-spacious 1 bedroom, 2nd floor. Peaceful bldg. $300+ util., security & references. 724-518-6285.

3555/APTS-RENT/WASHINGTON

CHARLEROI-1 bedroom, $475 per month, all utilities included except electric. 412-583-6829.

CHARLEROI

1 & 2 bedroom apts. for rent w/intercom, wall to wall carpet, washer/dryer. $350-$500. Security deposit. No pets.
724-396-1140
724-292-1189

CHARLEROI 2 ½ bedroom, stove, refrig. heat, water, sewage, garbage inc. $575. 724-518-1677.

★ CHARLEROI And DONORA ★
1 & 2 Bedroom Apts.
Clean & Secure
Call 412-398-9306

CHARLEROI nice 1 bedroom. $350 plus gas & electric. Water, sewage & appliances included. Call 724-396-9436

DONORA- newly refurbished 2 bedroom, new appliances. Near bus route. No pets. References. 724-379-8581.

DONORA eat-in kitchen, stove, refrig., lg. living room, 2 bedrooms, clean, peaceful, on bus line, no pets. 724-379-6492.

MONONGAHELA 2 sty., 2 BR, recently remodeled, lg. private basement, private entrance. $400+ util. After 4pm 412-831-2356.

MONONGAHELA deluxe extra large 1 bedroom, 2nd floor, fully equipped incl. central air, off street parking, best location. $395+ 724-941-5739, 724-483-4712.

MONONGAHELA 1 bedroom, appliances. No pets, non-smoker. $375+ electric. Call 724-258-9674.

MONONGAHELA 2 bedroom, private, 1st floor, fireplace, back yard. $430+ utilities. 724-258-2473.

3561/APT-RENT/OTHER

BELLE VERNON & MONONGAHELA

Modern 1 bedroom apartment. Air conditioning, refrigerator, stove, elevator, intercom, laundry, balcony, storage, security. Starting at $375 + utilities. Call 412-257-0902.

IF WE DON'T HAVE IT, YOU DON'T NEED IT. CLASSIFIEDS

3626/HSE-RENT/OTHER

Need Help Renting Your Property Out?

We're Expanding Our Property Management Department
Call Tom Simon at 724-929-9699

Howard Hanna
Simon Real Estate Services
724-929-9699

3605/HSE-RENT/FAYETTE

ARNOLD CITY 136 Nagy St. 2 bedroom, some appliances, oil heat, nice yard, no pets. $475+ security & utilities. 724-243-3205.

BELLE VERNON- 414 Market St. 3 bedroom updated home w/1st floor laundry & covered parking. $595+ utilities. Call 724-880-6595.

DAWSON- 2 bedrooms, large yard, pavilion, storage shed. $650 includes gas heat. Call 724-736-4781.

WASH. TWP. nice 2 BR, just upgraded, lg. rooms, C/A, no pets, non-smoking. $600+ utilities. 724-326-4834.

3620/HSE-RENT/WASHINGTON

DONORA- 2 houses: 3 bedrooms each, 1 bath, central air, parking. $560 mo. ea. Section 8 ok. 1-718-622-3090.

DONORA- rent to own 2 or 3 bedroom, nice house. $2,000 down, $350 per month. Call 724-875-9123.

DONORA

2 bedroom house, bath, A/C, yard. Some utilities. Hud accepted.

N. CHARLEROI

3 bedroom, kitchen, living room, 1 ½ bath, A/C. Some utilities. Hud accepted.
724-554-1523

DONORA 3 bedroom, fair sized yard, peaceful neighborhood, 2 car detached garage. Call 412-773-0133.

LOWER SPEERS- 2 story 2 bedroom. Close to bus, private parking. No pets. $575 + utilities. 724-961-6127.

MONONGAHELA- 3 bedroom duplex $525. 2 bedroom $425. Very clean, new carpet. 724-249-3100.

3625/HSE-RENT/WMLD.

MONESSEN 2 1/2 bedrooms, back yard, off-street parking. $560 inc. water, sewage, garbage. 724-518-1677

3645/MOBILE RENTALS

2 BEAUTIFUL MOBILE HOMES
Completely renovated
Everything new & upgraded
Rent to Own
Lot Rent,
Home Payment,
Sewage & Water,
Taxes & Insurance
$475 Per Month
Riverview Mobile Estates, Dunlevy
724-483-2087
412-638-9620

3620/HSE-RENT/WASHINGTON

DONORA- 2 houses: 3 bedrooms each, 1 bath, central air, parking. $560 mo. ea. Section 8 ok. 1-718-622-3090.

DONORA- rent to own 2 or 3 bedroom, nice house. $2,000 down, $350 per month. Call 724-875-9123.

DONORA

2 bedroom house, bath, A/C, yard. Some utilities. Hud accepted.

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MONONGAHELA- 3 bedroom duplex $525. 2 bedroom $425. Very clean, new carpet. 724-249-3100.

3700/COMMERCIAL RE

FAYETTE CITY for rent formerly Skibo's Salon, 1,155 sq. ft. Call for details 412-583-6829.

MONONGAHELA
WAREHOUSE/
OFFICE SPACE
2,200 sq. ft. 10' overhead garage door. Near Rts. 43, 51 & 70. $650 mo.
---------AND----------
MONONGAHELA
NEW OFFICES/
FLEX SPACES
640-2,200 sq. ft. $425-$1,400. On site parking, close to Rts. 43, 51, 70.
Call 724-258-4000.
www.penosplaza.com

PERRYOPOLIS- small office or retail space for rent. Great location. Affordable. Call 724-880-1910.

BUY IT! SELL IT! FIND IT! ONLY IN THE CLASSIFIEDS TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

4100/PERSONALS

ASTRO ✦ GRAPH
Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday
THURSDAY, OCT. 1, 2009

LIBRA
September 23 through October 23

In the year ahead, an interesting development could lead to a welcome change of occupation for some Libras. If you are one of them, look for the switch to offer more glamour and benefits.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Unless you treat your assignments or responsibilities with seriousness, your efficacy will be substantially reduced. Certain things can be handled lightly, but not your work.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- No one is trying to deprive you of having a little fun, but it is important to spend more time accomplishing something substantial than relaxing or playing. Keep things in perspective.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- A show of envy doesn't become you. It doesn't matter that you believe an undeserving person gets all the breaks. It hurts you, not him or her.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Stop fantasizing about those big ideas, and start taking positive action with regard to something constructive that can make a difference. Begin small, and let it grow.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Unless you are on your toes, you could end up buying the pitch instead of analyzing the product. Your usual instincts for spotting a bargain are likely to be inoperative at this time.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Be candid, especially with those deemed to be important in your life. Playing games to hide something will arouse suspicion and create disunity.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Analyze the reason for singling out and helping one acquaintance over another. Usually, the only reason you seek out one person in particular is to satisfy an ulterior motive.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Budget your day wisely, and don't waste precious time on insignificant interests or activities. A lack of scheduling could severely limit your productivity and effectiveness.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Friends or associates will notice if you don't honor your word, so be on guard. Your standing in the eyes of peers could be a bit fragile.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Take plenty of time to schedule and map out a course of action. Vagueness will mean the loss of precious time, while poor judgment will bring about the dissolution of your plans.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- If you get careless or let down your guard, you and your commercial involvements could get sidetracked. Don't open the door for someone to take advantage of you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Generally, you're careful about forming an alliance or partnership with a total stranger; however, a conniver who plans to use you for his or her purposes might pull a fast one.

Courage Under Fire
Join Us As We Salute Our Local
FIREFIGHTERS

Their call of duty extends beyond the difficult task of protecting us from ferocious fires; they are also among the first on the scene anytime someone calls 911. From providing life-saving first-aid care to life-saving rescues, our firefighters are always at the ready. During Fire Prevention Week, October 4-10, stop for a moment and thank our firefighters for their courage and dedication to protecting our community.

Publication: Saturday, October 10th.
Deadline: Thursday, October 8th, 12 Noon.
PAYABLE WHEN AD IS PLACED

Fill in and Mail to Valley Independent, Castigate 19 Monacan, PA 15062 — Send Cash, Check or Money Order.

Amount Enclosed_____ (Write Copy Below)

$25.00 2x3 (Photo) $15.00 2x1.5 (No Photo)

USE THIS COUPON WHEN MAILING PHOTO

(Print Complete Message) (Submitted By: Name, Address & Phone)

To All FIREFIGHTERS
Thank you for your support and careful watch over our families. May God continue to bless and protect you all.

(Actual Size) Just $15.00

John Doe
WASHINGTON TWP.
Thank you for all you have done for our family. You are our hero. The Doe's

A Real Keepsake
THE Valley INDEPENDENT
TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

(Actual Size) Just $25.00

CASTIGATE 19 • MONESSEN, PA 15062
PHONE: 724-684-5200 • FAX: 724-684-2602

5020/ARTICLES

HOME INTERIOR apple picture, $10.00. Leave message 724-288-5641.

LAMPS, large living room lamp, cranberry/green, exc. $50. 724-288-5641.

MICROWAVE Carousel $50.00
Call
724-929-3742.

MICROWAVE good condition, $20.00
Call
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PICNIC TABLE with umbrella, portable. New, in box. $70. Call 724-929-4980

PLAQUE little boy's room says Jeff's Room w/teddy bear, all wood, $10. 724-288-5641.

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FREEZER BEEF
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Tomatoes: canning $20/bushel & Roma's $24/bushel. Potatoes: red, white & gold, $16/bushel; plus many other canning vegetables available. Duda's Farm 724-246-7601.

5130/FURNITURE

2 BED FRAMES- maple colored wooden, storage. Good condition. $70 each or $125 both. 724-326-8311.

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BUGLES Old Drum Corps $40.00 & $50.00
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FLUTE Artley excellent, $140. Call 724-929-4538 or cell 724-875-9235.

TRUMPET Case, accessories, all perfect cond. $150. 724-929-4538 or cell 724-875-9235.

5195/SPORTING GOODS

BAR ROOM GAMES: basketball $25; new ping pong table $100. Call 724-483-2369.

PAIR OF SKIS- no boots $25. Call 724-483-2369

5220/WANTED TO BUY

BUYING Old Metal Signs & Military Items. Call Bill Brand at 724-929-7895

5550/CATS

2 KITTENS- adorable, litter trained. Free to good home. Call 724-518-6285.

3 CATS FREE to good homes
Call
724-379-4378.

FREE KITTENS to a good home
Call
724-938-6816.

LOOKING TO MOVE? REAL ESTATE EVERY SUNDAY. CLASSIFIEDS WORK! TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

5550/CATS

KITTENS- free to good home. Please call 724-797-1004.

KITTENS 1st shots, litter trained, $35 inc. spay/neuter. 724-258-8380.

L/H orange/white cat, neutered, declawed, 2 yrs. $25. Call 724-258-8380.

TABBY CAT 6 mos., neutered, shots, very sweet, $25. Call 724-258-8380.

5600/LOST & FOUND

LOST- cat, white w/orange tiger stripe markings. Valley Inn Social Hall area, off 4th St., Carroll Twp. 412-657-9892, 724-518-3464.

6050/PARTS & ACCESSORIES

MUD FLAP full length for motor home, new, $35.00. Call 724-929-3742.

USED AUTO PARTS
At Affordable Prices
C&M AUTO RECYCLING MONONGAHELA
724-258-3553

6060/VANS

1999 PLYMOUTH Voyager Van, inspected 8/10, 117,000 miles. 4 new tires. Transmission rebuilt. Good condition. $3,500 negotiable. 724-812-2078.

6080/AUTOS FOR SALE

$ W-A-N-T-E-D $
WE BUY AUTOS
Please Call Now!
Tregembo Motors
Exit 32B I70
Bentleyville
724-239-2200
tregembomotors.com

1999 CADILLAC Deville D-Elegance, 30K original miles, loaded, inspected 8/10. Excellent Garage kept. Leather interior. $9,000 negotiable. 724-812-2078.

CASH FOR SCRAP CARS
C&M AUTO
MONONGAHELA
FREE PICK-UP
Paying $50 to $75
724-258-3553
1-800-954-3553

COMPARE DEALS!
TOP $ 4 UR TRADE!
GREAT APR AVAIL!
Pre-Owned Dealer Valley Favorite
BUY! SELL! TRADE!
Plus
LEASE-TO-OWN
CREDIT REBUILD!
Tregembo Motors
Exit 32B I70
Bentleyville
724-239-2200
tregembomotors.com

R&M AUTO SALES
724-929-6900

2000 FORD Windstar, 4 dr., V6. $3,700.

1997 PONTIAC Bonneville, 4 dr., V6. $1,995.

2000 DODGE Dakota Sport Ext. Cab 4x4, V8, auto. $4,995.

2002 CHEVY Cavalier LS, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto. $3,995.

2001 OLDS Silhouette Van, V6, 4 dr. $2,795.

2000 DODGE Stratus, 4 dr., V6. $2,995.

2001 CHRYSLER Voyager, V6, 4 dr., 3rd row seat. 62K. $4,500.

2000 CHRYSLER Cirrus, 81K, 4 dr., 4 cyl. $3,500.

1999 CHEVY Malibu, 4 dr., 4 cyl. $2,995.

LOOKING FOR A NEW RIDE? FIND IT HERE. CLASSIFIEDS WORK!

6080/AUTOS FOR SALE

TRIB TOTAL MEDIA
All Private Party Ads are now PREPAID
What this means for you
- NO BILLS
- NO STAMPS
- EASY & IMMEDIATE AD PLACEMENT

We accept Cash, Check and all Major Credit Cards. Call to place your ad TODAY!

RICH WEIDMAN AUTO SALES
724-736-2991
Rt. 51S, Perryopolis

FORD '96 Explorer Sport 4WD, 5 spd., air, 73,000 miles, a rare find, must see
Only.....$3695

FORD 2000 Explorer XLS 4WD, 6 cyl., 5 spd., all power, looking for a bargain
Only.....$3995

DODGE 2002 Grand Caravan EL one owner, nice family ride and a bargain price
Only.....$4295

DODGE 2002 Caravan SE this is a must see, hurry on this one
Only.....$3695

FORD 2003 Ranger 4 cyl., 5 spd., air, serviced, ready to go, hard to find
Only.....$3695

DODGE '97 Dakota 83,000 miles, 6 cyl., auto., air, serviced, ready to go, nice
Only.....$2995

FORD 2002 Econoline E150 Cargo Van auto., air, power, ready to work, hurry on this one
Only.....$3695

FORD 2003 SEL leather, all power, sharp, luxury ride, this is a must see
Only.....$4295

BUICK 2000 Century Custom this is a very nice car, priced to sell
Only.....$3495

BUICK '96 Regal Custom 4 dr., 6 cyl., all power, must see to appreciate
Only.....$2695

BUICK '95 Century 6 cyl., cold air, nice inexpensive transportation
Only.....$1895

FORD '97 Taurus new inspection, new battery, serviced, detailed & a bargain price
Only.....$2495

FORD '96 Crown Victoria LX pearl white, red int., sharpest one in town
Only.....$2895

LINCOLN '97 Town Car one owner, 92,000 miles, mechanic special, ask for details
Only.....$2600

DODGE '99 Conversion Van Ram 1500 mechanic special, ask for details
Only.....$2100

6900/HOME IMPROVEMENTS

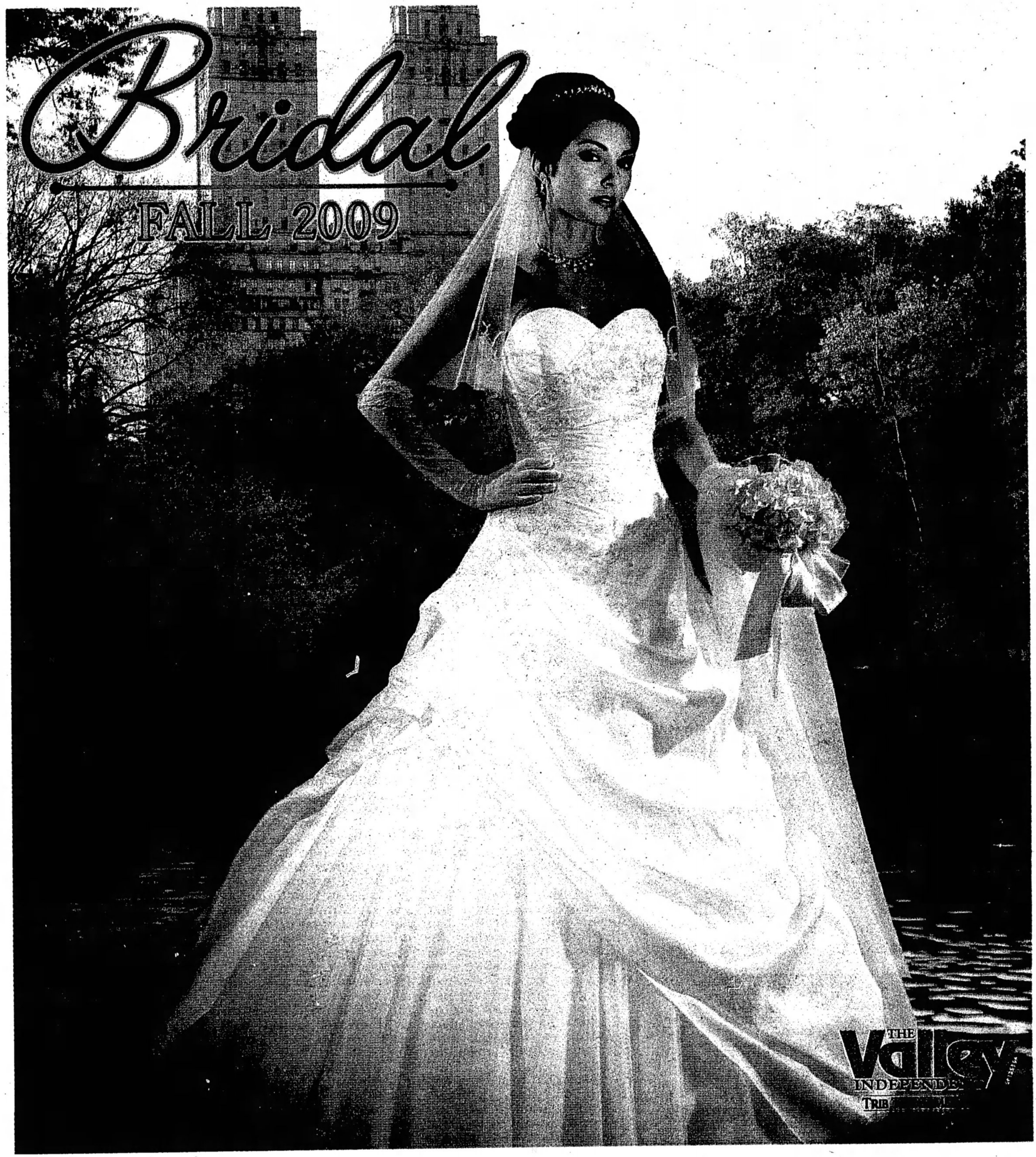
VINCENT BROTHERS CONTRACTORS
New Builders & Home Remodelers
Fully Insured
& Experienced
724-326-4260

7609/BOATS & MORE

18' MARK TWAIN Trihaul 140 HP I/O Merc Cruiser, ran good. $1,196.05 330-319-5860

Bridal

FALL 2009

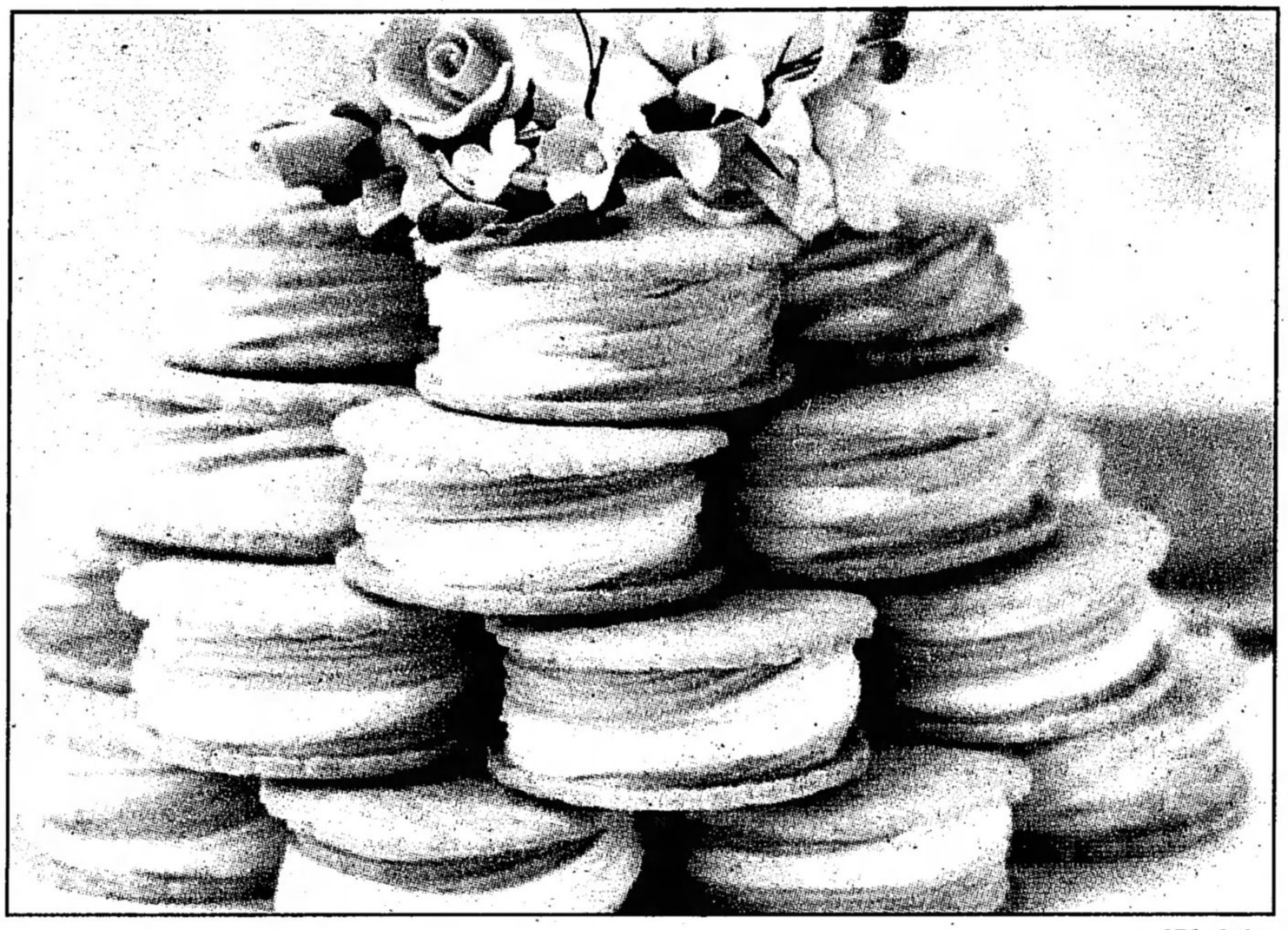


THE Valley INDEPENDENT TRIB

Creative tips for budget bridal shower

(ARA) — When hosting a bridal shower, it can be easy to get carried away. Hosts, typically a close friend or relative of the bride, often feel obligated to give the bride the "perfect" party — a concept as elusive as it is expensive.

However, if you find yourself planning an upcoming bridal shower on a budget, have no fear: It's entirely possible to plan a tasteful, fun and sentimental gathering without breaking the bank. Here are five time-saving and cost-cutting ways to throw a beautiful bridal shower:



ARA photos

Ice cream sandwiches are an inexpensive treat that will delight the guests at your bridal shower.

Invitations

It can be tempting to blow your entire budget for the party on the invitations, but consider saving money (and time) by sending them electronically. Web sites like Pingg.com make sending invitations and tracking responses electronically a breeze. And with an enormous online image database, it's almost guaranteed that even the pickiest planner will find the perfect invitation design.

Food

Skip hours of baking and frosting and provide your guests with a creative and low-fat ice cream cake. Ice cream sandwiches from The Skinny Cow look sweet when stacked in a pyramid and topped with creative garnishes. Your guests will be thankful for a low-fat snack option, and you will have time to actually enjoy the party.

Sandwiches come in strawberry shortcake, chocolate, vanilla, vanilla/chocolate, chocolate peanut butter, mint and cookies n' cream flavors.

> It's entirely possible to plan a tasteful, fun and sentimental gathering without breaking the bank.

Use one flavor for a consistent look or mix and match flavors for extra guest options.

Drink

Sangria is an unexpected and delicious drink to serve at your shower. Added bonus: the ingredients are inexpensive and easy to find. You can even substitute grape juice and seltzer water for wine for a tasty non-alcoholic version. The only other ingredients required are slices of fresh fruits such as oranges, pears and peaches, and about 1/4 cup of sugar. For variations on the classic recipe, check out Cooks.com or AllRecipes.com.

Games

Rework an old classic by playing a game of Bridal Shower Bingo. First, create copies of a blank grid resembling a bingo card. As the guests arrive, have them fill out the grid with gifts that they think the bride will receive. (The free space is in the middle and players can write their own gift in this space.) As the bride opens a gift, players cross it off their bingo card. Award a prize to the first person to fill five spaces in a row, across or diagonally.

Favors

Pamper your guests with homemade body scrubs in simple, elegant glass mason jars. You can even customize the recipe below to include your favorite scents and colors.

Homemade Body Scrub

You will need:

3 cups Epsom salt (or coarse sea salt)

1 cup oil (almond, canola or olive oil usually works best)

Essential oils for fragrance

Mason jars

Instructions:

First, measure out your salt and pour into a large container. Measure out the oil and slowly pour into the salt while stirring. Finally, add the essential oil to the desired strength. Attach any desired ribbons, hang tags or other decorations to the outside of the jar.

Highway: 64 years as top appliance dealer

Founded in 1946, Highway Appliance Company has been the premier appliance and electronics dealer in the Mon Valley for 64 years.

Locally owned and operated, Highway Appliance is run by Jerry Zahand Sr., CEO, and Jerry Zahand Jr., president and COO. According to the Zahands, the most important thing at Highway Appliance is customer service.

They are totally committed to 100 percent customer satisfaction, which is why they back all their services and purchases with a 90-day money-back guarantee.

Highway Appliance's "Risk Free Purchasing" takes the frustration out of buying major appliances and electronics. Highway Appliance is the only major appliance and electronics dealer that offers delivery by trained and uniformed personnel, which includes hook-up of the appliance or electronics product, and has its own service department staffed with experienced and knowledgeable technicians.

The award-winning service department has been recognized by GE, Whirlpool and RCA.

At Highway Appliance, you will also receive the best price. They will match any competitor's price.

A member of the Nationwide Buying Group with 11 Billion Dollar Buying Power and the Western Pennsylvania Better Business Bureau for more than 20 years, Highway Appliance has earned a reputation for quality service.

The company belongs to eight community organizations and has been honored repeatedly for its involvement in the community.

Highway Appliance employs seven part-time and 14 full-time workers, many who have been with the company for more than 25 years. The Zahands describe their employees as "a staff of professionals committed to customer service."

At Highway Appliance, you will find the right brands, the right price and the right advice.

Highway Appliance carries major appliances, televisions, home theater systems, bedding, vacuum cleaners and gas grills from brand-name vendors like General Electric, Whirlpool, Sony, Frigidaire, Kitchen Aid, Amana, Maytag, Mitsubishi, Hoover, Oreck and more.

Visit Highway Appliance's 6,000-square-foot factory clearance center, which features scratch-and-dent appliances direct from Whirlpool and GE.

If you are interested in purchasing major appliances and electronics without the hassle, give Highway Appliance a try. Visit their location at 2214 Route 88 in Dunlevy or call (724) 326-5616 for more information. You can also visit them on the Web at www.highway-appliance.com.

Create a photo book to remember

(ARA) — In today's digital era, it's easy to design and publish your own photography book at an affordable price. In fact, Americans will produce 17 million photo books in 2009, according to a Futuresource Consulting estimate. Wedding books, family photo books, and artistic collections of photos published in a coffee table book are especially popular for commemorating special memories.

Samira Kordestani, a professional book designer, offers these tips to help you get started on your own masterpiece:

■ Choose a publishing platform that gives you professional-quality options.

Blurb.com offers free Blurb BookSmart software, which makes it easy to design an incredible book using professionally-designed layouts. Select from many book sizes, small or large, and simply drag and drop your photos into the layouts of your choice. Once you order your book, it takes only one week to publish and deliver it to your doorstep.

■ Decide on a story or message for your book.

Great photo books tell a story. Whether it's an event or a themed collection of images, think about your vision for the book before you begin and then select your favorite photos to help tell your story.

■ Remember that you are creating a visual experience, not just a book.

Play around with design options on your first several pages. Try out different backgrounds, photo borders and page layouts. Once you've discovered the look you like best, keep it consistent throughout your book so that each page has a connection with the next.

■ Typography is just as important as your photos.

If you are adding captions, stories or other text to your book, select a font and text size that works well with your overall book design. The placement of text should visually complement your photos and other design elements.

Let Jerry's handle all your catering needs

Jerry's Catering Service has been the main ingredient in many celebrations since 1965 in the Fayette/Mon Valley Area.

Many catering services have come and gone, but Jerry's is still focused on giving the customer years of experience and personal care with every event the customer needs.

Jerry's caters for any type of party, business meetings, open houses, weddings, political events, showers, golf outings, cash bashes and holiday dinners.

With years of experience and know how, Jerry's can set up your food festivity in an air-conditioned banquet hall, a barn, a tent or a mechanic's workshop. Jerry's menu consists of traditional items, many of which can be picked up for a family dinner with a day's notice.

Because family schedules are so busy now, Jerry's has made it economically possible to have a catered dinner or cookout. Jerry's also offers Thanksgiving dinners with the bird and all the trimmings.

Jerry's Catering Service is located on Legion Street in Republic, Pa., where all the cooking is done in a large commercial kitchen. Jerry's will travel anywhere, any time to accommodate catering needs.

Call Kathy Broadwater at (724) 246-8889 to plan your next special occasion.

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Formality is no longer a bridal store

Formality, a division of Muia Studio, has for many reasons decided to completely dissolve the bridal and prom factions of the business.

It should be understood that any and all current business transactions that have not yet been consummated will be handled in the same fashion as they always have been. Any pending orders will still have access to any and all services that have been presented in the past.

All gowns have been sold through the liquidation process. Remaining to be sold at closeout prices are jewelry, shoes, headpieces, veils, slips, accessories, showcases, mannequins, fixtures, furniture and miscellaneous items.

Anyone interested in any of the above should contact Muia Studio at (724) 379-7900.

Muia Studio will remain in business and will continue with tuxedo sales and rentals in addition to the photography studio operation at the same location.

Owners Joanne and Chuck Muia would like to thank the many customers for their continued support over the last 30 years.

Trust your gown to Union Cleaners

Union Cleaners, established in 1920, knows how precious and valuable your wedding gown is to you.

The specialized and individual cleaning of your gown begins with the removal of stains, removal of hemline soil and repairing of any torn areas. Many gowns require hand cleaning to remove hemline soil.

Once the gown has been cleaned, it is pressed and may be viewed by the bride before it is wrapped in acid free tissue and placed in an acid-free box. Other items such as the veil, pillow, gloves or any other item the bride wishes to preserve may be placed in the box with the gown.

At home the proper storage area must be located. We do not recommend the attic or basement, and the gown box should lay flat, not on end.

Union Cleaners has locations in Monessen (plant), Rostraver (Interstate 70 and Route 201), California, Irwin, Elizabeth and Greensburg.

Remember, your gown is a unique purchase. Would you trust anyone else but Union Cleaners?

Creative Designs and Expressions

Let experts handle your wedding plans

By LINDA K. EVON
Creative Designs and Expressions

Planning a wedding, like creating a loving relationship, takes time. Often locations need to be selected and reserved a year in advance, as do bands, DJs, caterers, photographers, flowers, decorations and the multitude of other things that make a wedding special.

Couples can easily get overwhelmed by all these details to create the perfect wedding.

Enter the wedding coordinator/decorator.

A lot of couples think that just because they're organized, they can do it all. Being organized is only a part of bringing off a happy, memorable wedding.

Unfortunately, those who plan to do it themselves become stressed out.

A wedding coordinator/decorator can be as hands on or off as you need. She has worked with all the professionals needed for your special day and can often get you discounts that you couldn't have gotten on your own. She can also protect you from hiring people who aren't as professional as they claim to be.

Years ago, hiring a wedding coordinator/decorator was a luxury reserved for the wealthy. A professional wedding planner/decorator will work to give you a dream wedding within your budget.

Creative Designs & Expressions recently planned the wedding of Chris Higbee of Chris Higbee Project, founder of the Poverty Neck Hillbillies. Among those in attendance was Pittsburgh Steelers' quarterback Ben Roethlisberger.

Creative Designs & Expressions can make your wedding dreams come true. We offer free consultants — morning, afternoon or evening, seven days a week, my schedule permitting.

Come browse through our showroom (by appointment only) and look at our portfolios. My staff and I can make your dreams come true.

To schedule a free consultation appointment, call Linda Evon at (724) 938-7355. Your special day, our special touch.

Ducoeur's: The Valley's furniture specialists

Highest-quality standards, affordable prices and personal service are the trademarks that have made Ducoeur's Furniture Store a success that has spanned decades. Located at 435 Fallowfield Ave. in Charleroi, the store has been in business since 1980.

Owner Thomas O. Ducoeur comes from a long line of Charleroi business people. The family opened Orange's in Charleroi in 1893 and today it is the oldest family-owned business in the community.

Ducoeur's Furniture provides a variety of items for your living room or family room. Upholstery manufactured by Flexsteel and Hickory Heritage is available. Besides the standard living room suit, recliners, sleeper sofas and occasional chairs are also available. All furniture is top quality and some carry extended warranties.

For the bedroom, Ducoeur's offers a variety of styles from Carolina Furniture. With styles for the juvenile to adult, there is something to fit everyone's budget.

Along with the bedroom furniture, bedding from Imperial is also available. Imperial Bedding is manufactured in Huntington, W.Va. While is has quality similar to the big names, it is priced less than the national brands.

Also stocked are curios, occasional tables and artificial plants. In addition to high quality and large selection of furniture for any room in the house, Ducoeur's offers pictures, mirrors, lamps and Howard Miller clocks.

"Customer satisfaction is our specialty and our employees play a huge part," Ducoeur said. "Nancy, Lois and Darlene have combined 40-plus years of furniture sales experience. They are very helpful when you are choosing and coordinating fabrics and styles."

Duecoeur's Furniture accepts Discover, Master Card and Visa credit cards. Financing is also available, including three or six months same as cash. Ducoeur's offers free removal of old furniture and bedding with the purchase of new items.

Ducoeur's Furniture is open Mondays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more details, call (724) 483-2212.

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Experts share honeymoon advice

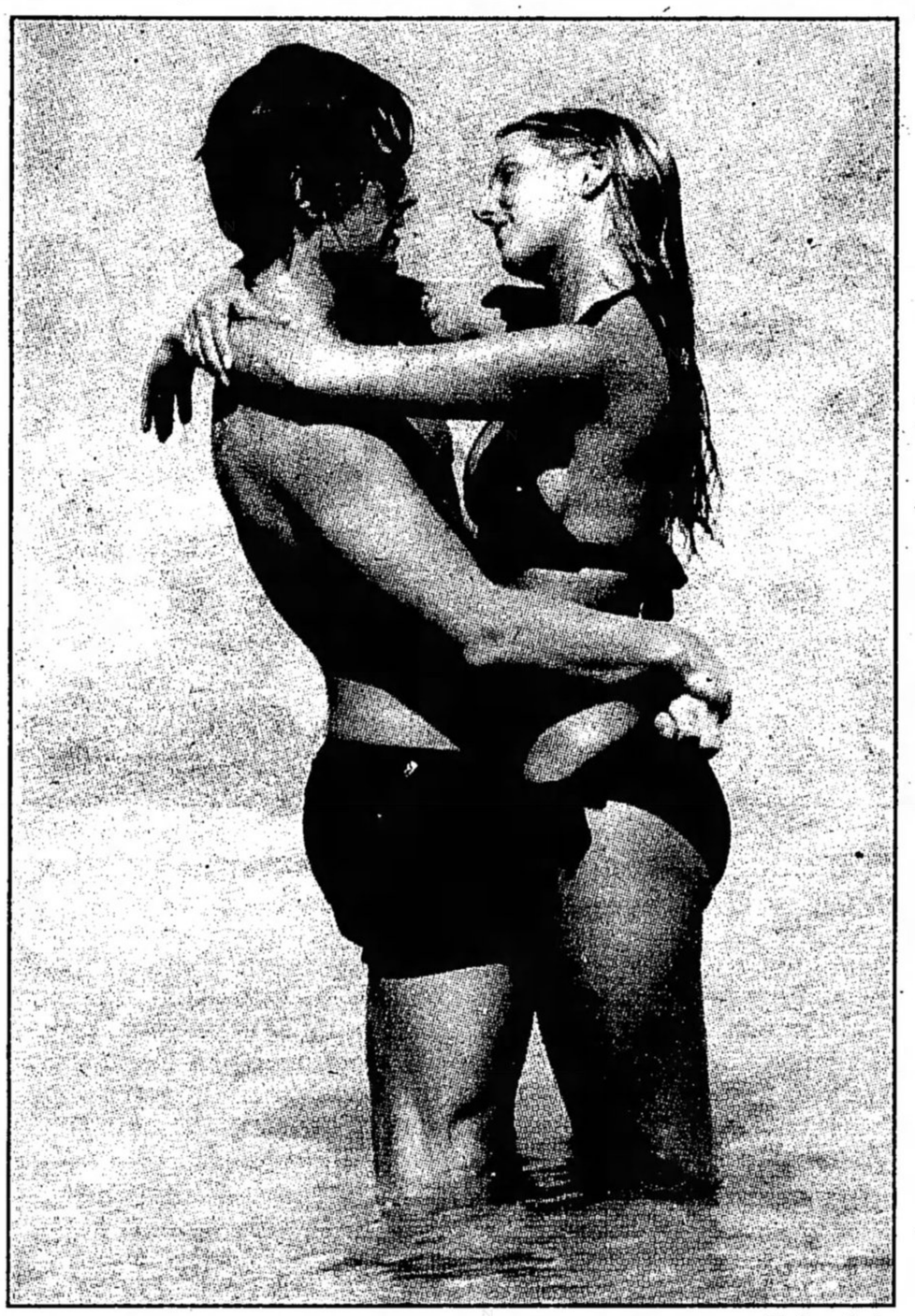
(MS) — After months of planning and saving for a wedding, a honeymoon offers one-on-one time for the couple to have fun, develop a deeper relationship, and enjoy some much needed rest and relaxation.

Among couples who enjoy a traditional wedding, statistics say that 99 percent take a honeymoon. The average honeymoon costs approximately $5,000. Since a honeymoon will account for at least 14 percent of the total wedding budget, couples want to ensure that theirs is money well spent — especially in an economy where every penny counts. Preparation is the key to honeymoon success.

"Working with travel professionals that specialize in honeymoon and destination wedding planning can help ensure couples have a memorable honeymoon," says Scott Ellingboe, CEO of The Honeymoon (www.thehoneymoon.com), an online honeymoon planning resource with a honeymoon gift registry service and a nationwide network of independent, experienced travel agents. "Whether you're a do-it-yourselfer or use a travel expert, you'll enjoy browsing the honeymoon package and resort listings and reading the entertaining and informative stories in our multi-media digital magazine. You're bound to find something you weren't looking for that will help you create a better honeymoon experience." Additional tips provided are:

■ Enjoy clear skies or bottomless blue water: Timing plays a large role in honeymoon travel. It's important to research the average weather conditions for prospective honeymoon locales during the month you'll be traveling as well as any events that may take place at that time. This way you book your honeymoon during an optimal time for the best conditions, both in regards to weather and the local culture.

■ Save money: Putting honeymoon plans into the hands of an expert could add up to considerable savings. "Travel agents have relationships with tour and package providers that they can leverage in ways the average consumer cannot," offers Ellingboe. Turn to a honeymoon expert for honeymoon planning needs so your honeymoon can truly be a trip of a lifetime.



Metro photo

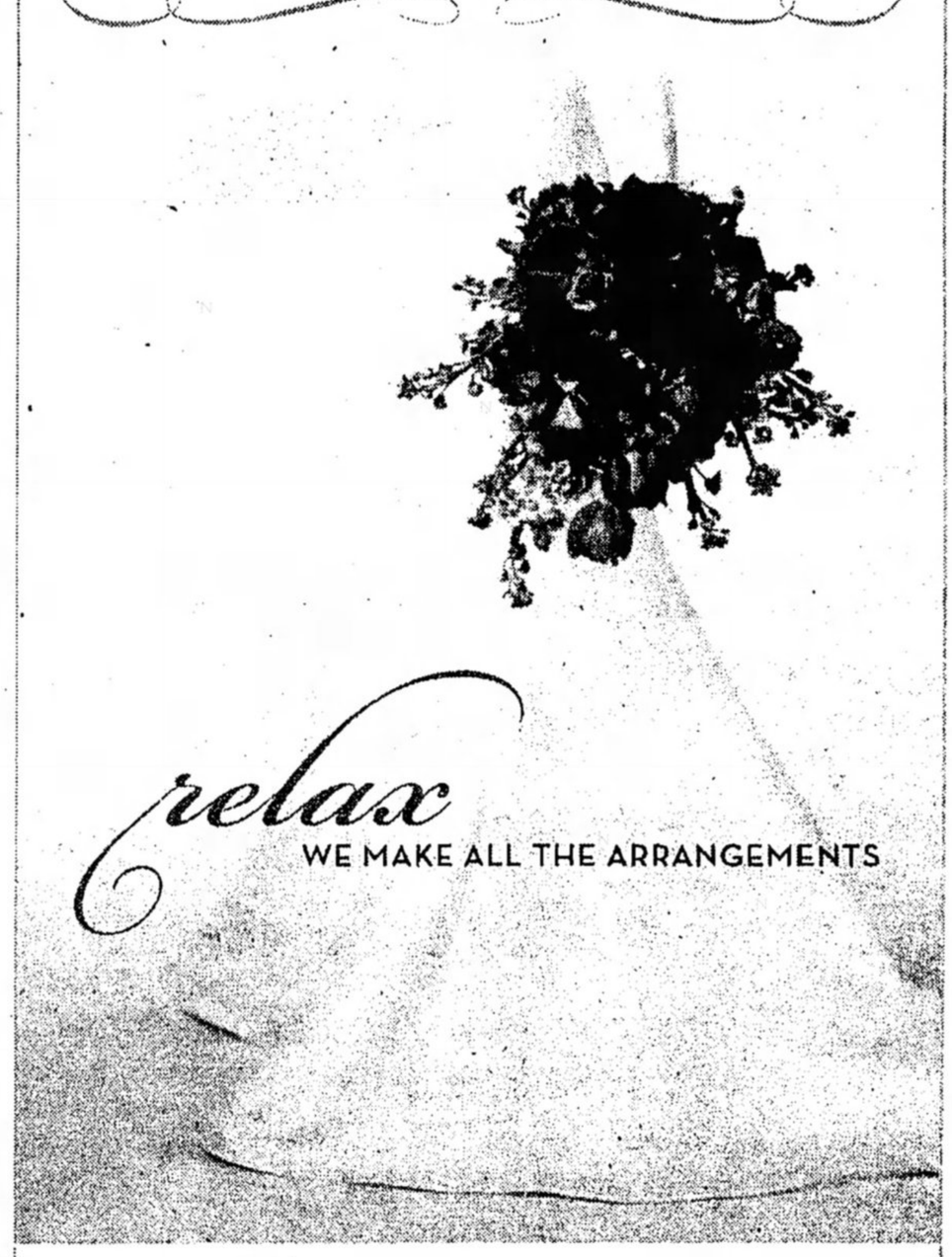
Don't plan your dream honeymoon vacation without consulting travel experts.

■ Honeymoon registry: Not just for budget-conscious brides- and grooms-to-be, consider creating a honeymoon registry to give your wedding guests an alternative to crock pots, toasters and blenders. Wedding guests can improve your honeymoon experience by gifting the activities, excursions and dining experiences that make the trip memorable.

■ Pack a variety of clothing options: Bring a few different outfits of varying levels of formality so that you'll have options on your trip. Depending upon the resort or ship, there may be specific dress codes at certain restaurants or meal times; you don't want to be caught off-guard. Make sure your research includes destination clothing requirements since what is acceptable culturally varies widely across the globe.

■ Read reviews: There's a reason review sites are so popular — they help people make better, more informed decisions. Advertising gives you one perspective, reviews give you another. Make sure that you read reviews of the places you are considering for your honeymoon so that you get a variety of viewpoints.

For more tips, reviews and ideas for honeymoon & destination wedding travel, visit www.thehoneymoon.com.



Budgeting tips for brides and grooms

When it comes to planning a wedding, finances are first and foremost on the minds of many couples. As the costs associated with weddings continue to rise, the need for a budget only grows more apparent.

But how can a couple establish and stick to a budget? Doing so depends on each individual couple, how much they can spend and what they're willing to sacrifice for their big day.

Establishing a Budget

Wedding budgets can vary greatly depending on the couple and the type of wedding they desire. A wedding budget should be established as far in advance as possible.

When setting the budget, it's best to determine exactly how much you can spend, and then set the budget lower than that. For example, if the most you can afford is $25,000, set your budget at $22,000. This will allow you some wiggle room when the inevitable happens and you're forced to go over budget.

Monitor Your Spending

Once a budget has been determined, a good way for couples to adhere to that budget is to establish a separate wedding spending account. This account should be separate from personal accounts, and all wedding expenses should be drawn solely from this wedding account. This is a good way to monitor how much you're spending, and your monthly statement will provide an itemized list of how much is being deposited and spent.

Metro photo

When establishing a wedding budget, couples should be mindful of what they hope to offer their guests at the reception.

Be Ready to Spend More

Regardless of how well you've planned the wedding, you're going to end up spending more than your initial budget allowed. This happens for a number of reasons, ranging from overtime fees at the reception to tipping the vendors to larger guest lists than you might have originally intended.

Prepare for the inevitable overspending by cutting back on other expenses leading up to the big day. Rather than going out to dinner on weekends, make a homecooked meal to save some money. Instead of costly trips to a night club, invite friends over for the night. You'll be surprised how much these subtle lifestyle changes can save you.

Stick to Your Guns

While you should be prepared to spend more, that extra spending should be saved for things such as tipping the staff and possibly paying more for an additional guest or two. Where couples should be budget-cautious is when vendors try to up-sell services. For example, while a top-shelf bar might be a nice gesture, it can be considerably more expensive than just offering beer at your reception, and letting your guests pay for liquor.

If a vendor tries to up-sell, couples should not hold that against the vendor. After all, that is the vendor's job. Instead, prioritize what you want before you go visit any vendors. You're much more likely to be happy with your selections.

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Folklore, myths and good luck charms

Who doesn't hope for good fortune on their wedding day? That's why there are so many traditions and steps people take to ensure luck is smiling down on them for their wedding. Here are some traditions you may not have known about.

■ According to Greek culture, tuck a sugar cube into your glove on your wedding. The sugar will sweeten your union.

■ English tradition says that Wednesday is the best day to marry. Monday is for wealth and Tuesday is for health.

■ The groom carries his newly betrothed across the threshold to protect her from evil spirits.

■ Hindu tradition says rain on your wedding day is good luck.

■ For good luck, Egyptian women are known to pinch the bride on her wedding day.

■ In Holland a pine tree is planted outside of the newlyweds' home for good luck and fertility.

■ A law in 1775 said a wedding was not legal if the bride wore makeup during the ceremony.

■ Wedding and engagement rings are worn on the fourth finger of the left hand because it was long believed a vein ran from that finger directly to the heart.

■ Ancient Greeks and Romans said a wedding veil protected the bride from evil spirits. It has been a tradition to wear a veil ever since.

Tips for a worry-free wedding day

(ARA) — You can hear the wedding bells already. Friends and family gathered together to witness your big day. The limousine ride, the toasts, wedding cake and the first dance — it's all coming together for the perfect day.

But wait! Before you say "I do," there are a number of important things that you and your future spouse must do to become officially married.

Many newlyweds overlook the fact that a marriage is a legal contract. Two individuals merge all they have into a new legal entity or partnership. While many couples often focus on the big day and all of the events surrounding the ceremony and reception, there are a number of legal steps that newlyweds must consider as part of the process, according to FindLaw.com, the world's leading online source of legal information for consumers.

To help you and your partner have a worry-free wedding day, here's a prenuptial checklist from FindLaw.com with legal items to consider as you merge your households into one.

Changing names

It's often one of the first big dilemmas facing a new bride: Keep your maiden name, or take his last name? It's a big decision, because if you decide to change your legal name, it means changing your name on everything from your driver's license to stock certificates. While thinking this through, also think about the last names of children you may have in the future.

Marriage requirements

Each state has its own requirements for couples wishing to be married, some of which include: marriage licenses, blood tests or residency requirements. Make sure you and your future spouse know what the requirements are in your state, and have fulfilled all marriage requirements before the big day. If either you or your future spouse has been married before, make sure you have obtained all legal documents to ensure that your new marriage is valid and legal in the eyes of your state.

Marriage ceremonies

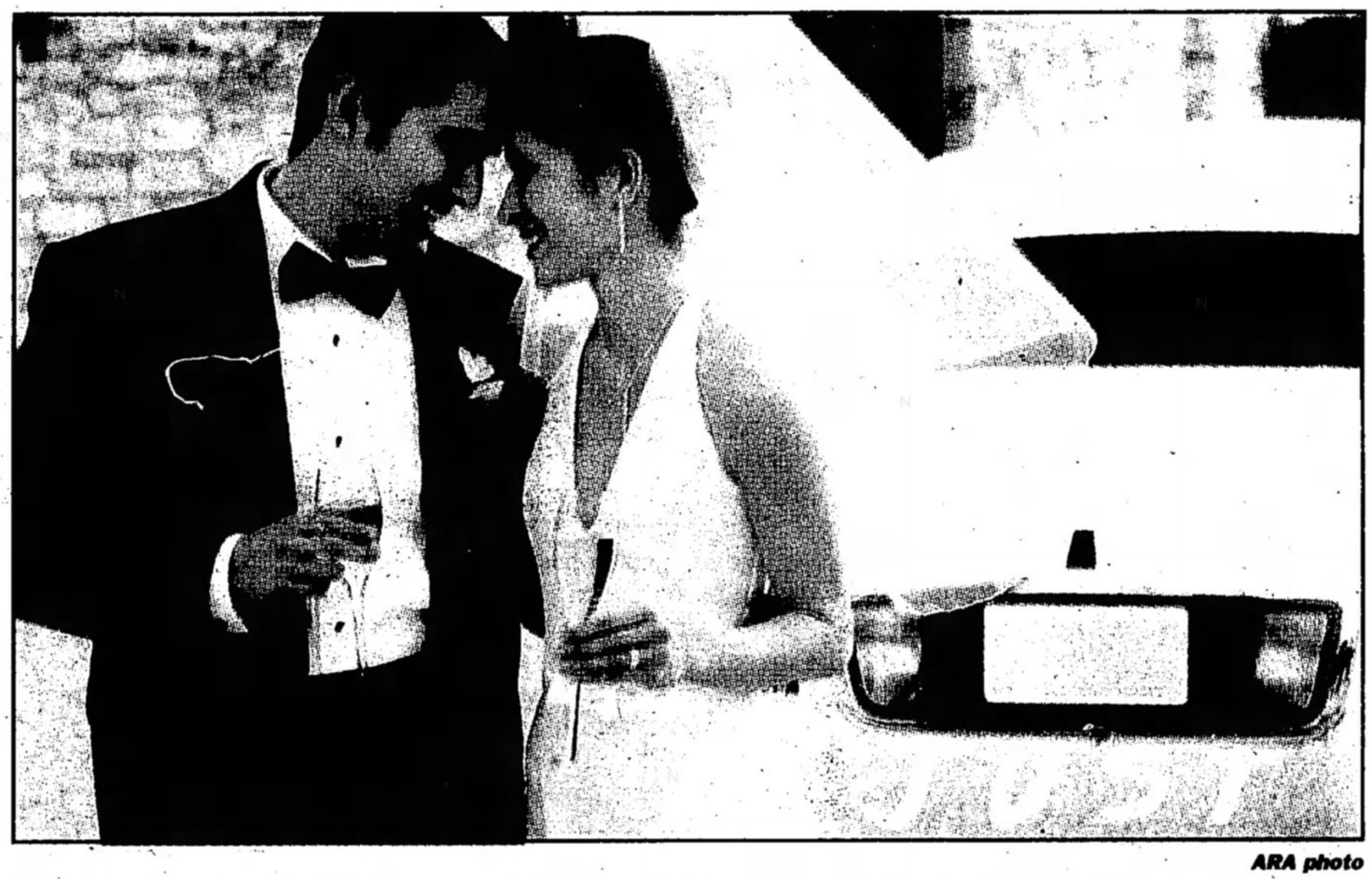
Most states have legal requirements pertaining to the marriage ceremony itself, including who may perform the marriage ceremony and whether witnesses are required. Check with your county or state government Web site about these requirements.

Prenuptial agreements

A prenuptial or pre-marriage agreement can help define the property and financial rights and obligations of marrying spouses, including what will happen if the marriage ends. If you are considering entering into a prenuptial agreement, you should be aware of the legal requirements that must be met in order for the agreement to be considered valid and enforceable.

Marriage, money and property

In a recent, national consumer survey by FindLaw.com, the topic of money came in second, tied with having and raising children, as the topic that most led to a fight among married 18- to 34 year-olds. When you get married, your property and finances will, to a certain extent, merge with those of your spouse. Based on the laws of the state in which you marry and/or intend to establish your permanent residence, you should become familiar with what is and is not considered marital or "community" property, and understand how to keep certain assets as separate property. You also should become familiar with your obligations as a new spouse in taking on the debts and tax liabilities of your partner, and agree on how you're going to handle finances as a newly married couple.



ARA photo

Take some of the worry out of your wedding day with help from FindLaw.com.

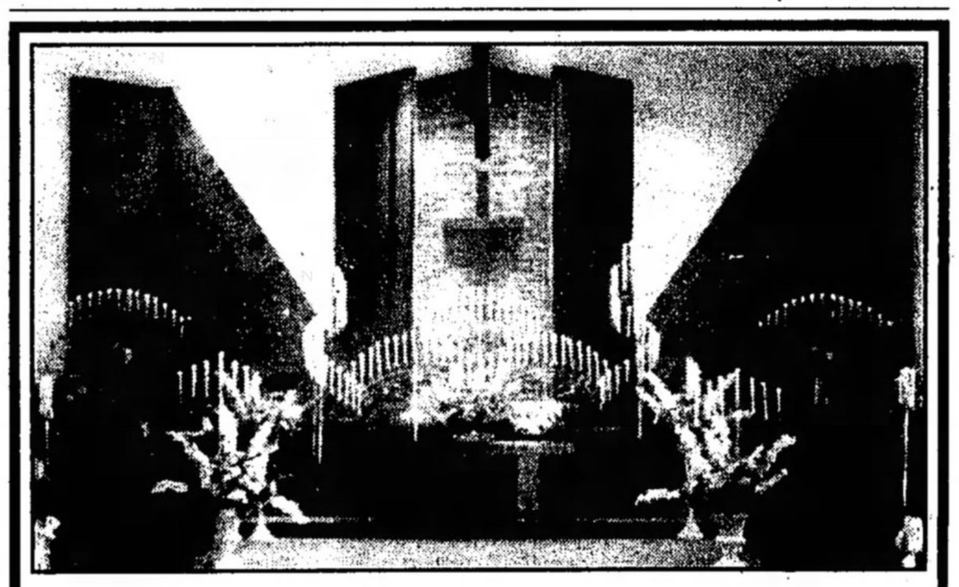
Wedding day contracts

In preparing for your big day, you will sign a number of contracts for items such as wedding day photos, the reception hall and a honeymoon package. Now is a good time to start working together as a team to carefully identify credible wedding day vendors, to negotiate these contracts together, and to decide in advance how you will handle a problem if something goes wrong.

Will and health care directives

As you and your new spouse work together on merging your finances and assets, now is a good time to write a will together that also incorporates end-of-life health care directives.

This is especially important for previously married individuals who may be merging families together.



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Something borrowed, something ... green?

If you have a hybrid car parked in your garage, recycle rain water to irrigate backyard plants and have replaced just about every bulb in your home with compact fluorescents, there's a good chance that you're environmentally conscious.

But what if you've just gotten engaged and want to impart some of these green ways of thinking to the wedding? What can you do to be earth-friendly when tying the knot?

Wedding industry insiders say that the trend of going green with weddings is growing exponentially. David Cooperrider, a business professor at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, says that going green is one of the great business opportunities of the 21st century, and there is much potential for the wedding industry.

He offers that wedding vendors that are not going green will be at a competitive disadvantage to those who do.

Going green for your wedding day doesn't mean you have to compromise on the elements that will make the day special. It just means you can take a look at the details and the bigger picture and develop strategies that will minimize the impact on the planet.

■ Go local: From food to flowers, choose vendors that use locally grown and raised products. This reduces the amount of smog generated and fuel consumed to bring items in for your wedding. Many caterers are now collaborating with local farms and other vendors to offer organic, locally grown menu items. It pays to ask about availability.

■ Go to your guests:Figure out where the greatest number of your guests reside and then hold the wedding nearby. For example, a couple from the Northeast who has relocated to the West coast, but has all of their family still in the east, may want to hold their wedding in the east. It is less expensive and more environmentally friendly for the couple to simply fly to the wedding, rather than having hundreds of guests drive or fly west.

■ Be mindful of wardrobe choices:Choose items that really can be worn again. Skip the rented tuxes and ask groomsmen to wear a similar styled suit that they can add to their work wardrobe. Bridesmaids can wear a simple black cocktail dress so that they're not left with a taffeta creation that will only hang in the closet afterward. If you decide to go more traditional with wardrobe, find out if gowns can be recycled or donated so that they can be reused in another way.

■ Choose recycled materials for wedding invitations and announcements: There are an increasing number of suppliers creating invitations from recycled materials. Some will do all the assembly for you; other less expensive items may be more hands-on. Cut down on further use of paper by creating a wedding Web site where you post directions, maps, party times, and other essential information so you avoid extra slip-in sheets with your invitations.

■ Create car-pool options:Bus guests to your venue to save on gas. It is also a safer option for those who will be indulging in alcoholic beverages at the party since they won't have to drive on the return trip home.

■ Investigate ecologically responsible wedding jewelry: According to Greenkarat, purveyors of ecologically responsible engagement rings and wedding bands, 2,500 tons of gold are mined each year, even though there is enough gold above ground (already mined) to satisfy all demands of the jewelry industry for the next 50 years.

Much of it sits in bank vaults and in the form of old and unused jewelry. See if you can recycle old jewelry into something new. Or embrace the sentimental hand-me-down rings from a grandmother or other relative.

Metro photo

An outdoor wedding featuring locally grown flowers can save on the energy it would take to power a large reception hall.

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Tuxedo choices for your wedding day

There are many grooms-to-be who leave choosing their wedding day attire to the last minute.

After all, it's something that doesn't require much thought at all, right?

Actually, choosing your attire requires careful consideration of several variables. As such, many men are intimidated by the process, another reason for procrastination.

However, acquiring a few pointers will help make the process easier if you have limited experience with wedding day attire.

It's first important to consider the style of your wedding. What time is it being held? What is the size of the wedding party and the number of attendants? Will it be held in a church with a reception at a fancy catering hall, or is it a more laid-back affair at a park or on the beach? All of these questions will help determine the formality of the event. Your wardrobe choices should coincide with this level of formality.

Tuxedos are often the attire of choice for weddings that are moderately or ultra formal. A tuxedo with a bow tie and tails is a very formal look. For the majority of weddings a tuxedo without tails, with a matching vest and regular tie, will be adequate for the groom and groomsmen.

On some occasions, especially casual weddings, grooms choose to wear a sports jacket and slacks rather than a tuxedo.

Tuxedoes are flattering for most men, especially when a black tuxedo is chosen. Black is slimming, and simply slipping into a tuxedo can enable anyone to look sophisticated. Working with a tuxedo shop representative can help you to find a tuxedo that fits well.

These garments are available in a number of sizes, but a reputable shop will make minor alterations to ensure a perfect fit. You want to be sure there is no pulling in the jacket and that the pants are a good length. Also, shirt sleeve length is important (the cuffs should extend past the jacket a little bit), as well as the fit of the shirt collar. You want to be comfortable the entire duration of your wedding.

Tuxedo jackets come in many styles, with the basics being single- or double-breasted. Double-breasted jackets may add a little bulk, which should be avoided by heavy men or those who are very slim.

Jackets also come in different lengths. Choose one that is proportionate to your height so your body does not look overwhelmed by the jacket. Here are a few of the styles:

- Cutaway jacket: This jacket is shorter in the front and tapers to one longer tail in the back. It is traditionally a formal daytime jacket.
- Traditional tuxedo jacket: As mentioned, this can be single- or double-breasted and feature varied numbers of button closures. The lapels may also be varied. A peaked lapel forms a "V" at the collar and points upward. A notched lapel has an indentation at the collar in the shape of a triangle. A shawl lapel has no indentation and smoothly curves around the neck.
- Mandarin jacket: Mandarin-style jackets do not have a lapel but a collar that stands straight up. There are six buttons along the front. It is worn with a mandarin-style shirt without a tie.
- Long coat: The long coat is best worn by tall, broad-shouldered men and is traditional in colder weather. The coat extends beyond the fingertips of the wearer.
- Dinner jacket: This is a variation on the regular tuxedo jacket, but it is usually ivory or white in color. This can set the groom apart from other members of the wedding party.

Many grooms-to-be opt to rent their tuxedo instead of purchase one. Wedding experts recommend renting the attire three months before the wedding. All groomsmen should rent their tuxedos from the same shop for a uniform look. It is also customary to coordinate the tuxedos with the gowns bridesmaids will be wearing. One way to do so is with a similar colored tie, vest or cummerbund. Take a color swatch of one of the bridesmaids' gowns with you to the tuxedo store for assistance with matching the look.

Pick up the tuxedo a day or two before the wedding and try on every piece, including the shoes, to check for fit. This way you have time for an exchange if something is not right or to pick up a missing tie or cufflink, which is apt to happen.

Rented tuxedoes usually need to be returned the day after the wedding or the next business day.

Elect a member of the wedding party to handle tuxedo returns because you're likely to be on your honeymoon at this point.

Metro photo

A tuxedo should coordinate with the formality and style of a wedding.

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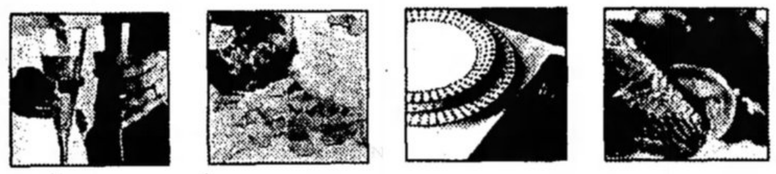

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Follow a few wedding registry tips and give wedding well-wishers plenty of gifting options.

Metro photo

Getting engaged is just the beginning

(MS) — Are you one of the thousands of couples who got engaged over the holidays? This is the time for you and your soon-to-be to get everything you ever wanted — the time to start from scratch; to upgrade, expand and replace. To turn a whole bunch of mismatched mine and yours into a lifetime of ours.

A lot of couples become overwhelmed, feeling they have to get it all done at once. According to the experts at Bed Bath & Beyond, this is totally normal. When it comes to registering, they suggest you relax, take your time and have fun.

Go back to the store as many times as needed, or update your registry online.

Here are some additional tips to make wedding planning a breeze:

■ Plan ahead: Start a bridal registry as soon as you say "yes." This way you will be prepared for your engagement party and bridal shower, as well as your wedding. Periodically update your registry by adding more products if you need to, even after the wedding. Be kind to procrastinators.

■ Don't be shy: Register for gifts in a range of prices and categories. This will give guests and group givers lots of options to choose from.

■ Do the math: Here's an easy rule of thumb: Add up all the gift-givers for both your wedding and bridal shower. Register for at least two times as many gifts as givers. Your guests will appreciate having lots of choices when they shop for you. Be sure to refresh your list regularly as gifts get purchased.

■ Register now, because you won't buy it later: You may think you will ... but you won't. Now is the time to let others get you the stuff you'd never buy yourself. Your friends and family might even get together to purchase a higher priced "group gift."

■ Remember the rule of three: When it comes to setting your table, if you choose bold patterns for your china and flatware, pick a more simple style of glassware. Prefer intricate stemware? Pair it with simpler patterns of china and flatware. So, it's bold/bold/simple or simple/simple/bold.

■ Three sheets is a win: Register for at least three sets of sheets — one for the bed, one for the linen closet and one for the hamper. This way you won't be forced to do laundry.

Once you've set up your bridal registry, take advantage of Bed Bath & Beyond's Bridal Toolkit, the complimentary wedding planning tools available at bedbathandbeyond.com, including your own personal wedding Web site, budgeter, task manager, guest list manager, gift tracker and even a seating arranger. This way, all of your information can be stored in one convenient place.

Congratulations and best wishes on your engagement. Now get registering and let the gift-giving begin.

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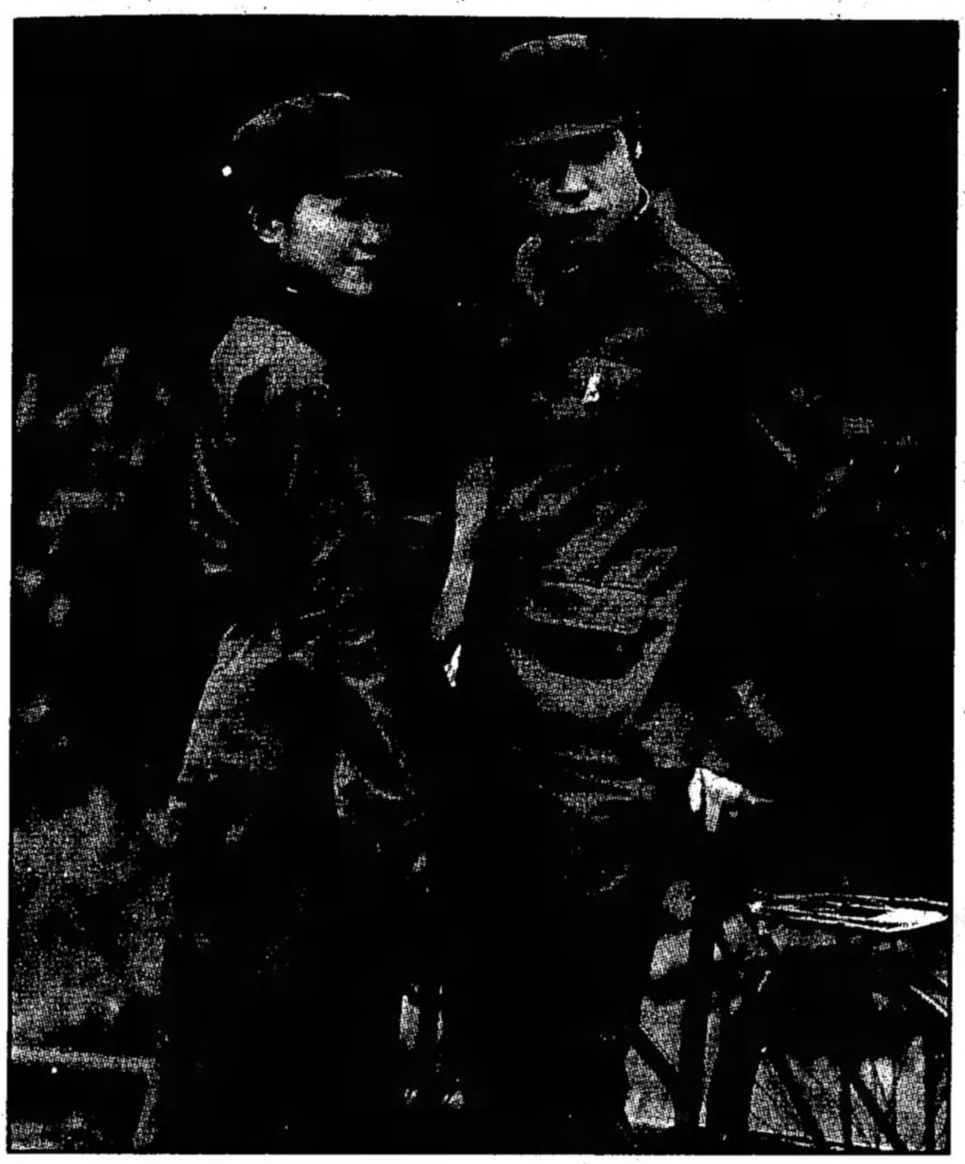
Young Chinese opt for Red Guard look in weddings



Associated Press

Xu Shuo, right, and his partner Sun Fengqing, pose during their Red Guard-style photo session at an old train station in Hangzhou, China. Two or three couples a week are having Red Guard-style wedding photos taken at a cost of 2,000 Yuan (US $290), which is about the same as regular wedding portraits.

HANGZHOU, China (AP) — Sun Fengqing is not getting married in a white dress, or even a traditional cheongsam. She's going to wear a green military outfit with a Red Star on her hat and a Mao Zedong badge — the uniform of the young Red Guard from China's Cultural Revolution.

The choice of outfit shows how, 60 years after the foundation of the People's Republic of China, revolutionary images have taken on different meaning for China's young generation.

"It's just different from other wedding pictures," said Sun, a 24-year-old advertisement company worker, who is marrying 26-year-old dancer Xu Shuo.

The nostalgia about the 1966-1976 Cultural Revolution comes even though it is still a taboo subject in China. The revolution sprang from a factional struggle within the Communist Party, and the Red Guards invaded workplaces and universities to remove anti-socialist influences.

> "I think it's very cool, but it doesn't mean it is related to the history of the revolution."
>
> Sun Fengqing

Estimates of the number of people who were killed, starved to death, driven to suicide and died in acts related to political persecution run from the tens of thousands to around a million.

The idea for the special Red Guard-style wedding photos came from Zou Sigen, manager of the 9th Channel Photo Studio in Hangzhou, China, who thought they would be popular.

"People are more open-minded, more eager to change," said Zou. Two or three couples come every week for Red Guard portraits, which cost 2,000 yuan ($290), about the same as regular wedding portraits.

"I think it is fun to pose as a Red Guard. That is a special period that most young people do not know about. It definitely makes you feel different when you are in the green army uniform," Zou said.

"I think it's very cool, but it doesn't mean it is related to the history of the revolution," Sun said.

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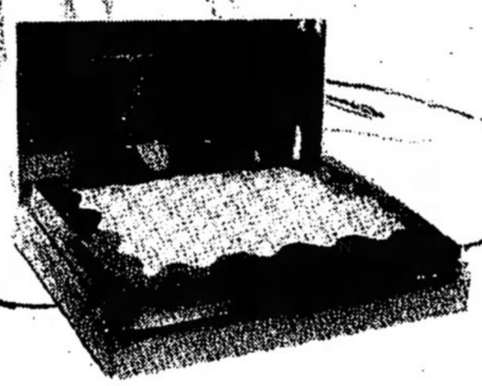

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Bow-wow vows

Associated Press

In this photo taken Aug. 29, Carole Bigwood's two Yorkshire terriers, Skylar, left, and Rainbow are seen dressed for their wedding in Vancouver, Wash.

VANCOUVER, Wash. (AP) — All eyes turned toward the aisle as "Here Comes the Bride" played from a portable stereo. The bride, resplendent in a white gown and lacy, pink-trimmed veil, walked to meet her groom, clad in a tuxedo and top hat.

He promised to always share his toys and let her eat first. She vowed to stop biting his legs so hard when they're playing. And just like that, Carole and John Bigwood's Yorkshire terriers Skylar and Rainbow were joined as dog and wife.

"I thought my daughter was nuts, but this is cute," said Diane Rapier of Vancouver, Carole Bigwood's mother and owner of groomsman Buddy, a 10-month-old Pomeranian.

The Bigwoods might have raised a few eyebrows with their elaborate doggie wedding, but they're not alone. Such celebrations are in keeping with the general trend of people treating their pets like family, said Lisa Peterson, American Kennel Club spokeswoman.

"Things that we would normally do for ourselves we're now starting to do for our pets," Peterson said. "Having a doggie wedding is a fun thing to do ... as a social event for other dogs and their owners."

For the Bigwoods' dogs, the nuptials had been a long time coming. Carole Bigwood started planning the ceremony about nine months ago, delaying it to breed Skylar, 2, and Rainbow, who turns 2 this month. So rather than get married in June, that's when Rainbow gave birth to Ernie.

"The wedding was supposed to come first," Bigwood said with a laugh.

But this way Ernie was able to see his mother and father pledge their eternal love to each other in front of family and friends in the Bigwoods' Salmon Creek garden in late August. Ernie was one of several groomsmen dressed in purple suits Bigwood made to match her bejeweled, reversible bridesmaid dresses.

"I stayed up all night finishing them," said Bigwood, creator of the pet clothing and accessories line Wild Child Pet Fashions.

Rainbow's attendants included 10-month-old Havanese Hanna as a bridesmaid, 2-month-old Chihuahua Coco as the flower girl and 2-year-old miniature dachshund Daisy Mae as maid of honor. Daisy Mae walked down the aisle with owner Sandy Peterson, followed closely by best man Chowder, a 3-year-old basset hound owned by Bigwood's nephew, 11-year-old Riley Simmons. Buddy, Ernie and their handlers rounded out the processional.

After the vows, which Carole and John Bigwood read on behalf of Rainbow and Skylar, respectively, the party really got started. "Who Let the Dogs Out?" played as the newlyweds and their canine guests ran around the yard sniffing and playing while their human friends looked on happily.

Then came time for the refreshments. Carole Bigwood and friend Alicia Bell made a cake for the four-legged guests out of wet and dry dog food and dog bones.

"The dogs loved that. They were in dog heaven," Carole Bigwood said.

Since the gathering also served as an early 45th birthday party for Carole, the Bigwoods bought a three-tiered cake for their human guests. They used figurines of two Yorkies kissing as the cake topper.

And as for her real dogs, Carole Bigwood thinks they had an enjoyable — albeit exhausting — day.

"I think they had fun. They've never had so many people in the backyard before," she said. "But they were really tired after. They crawled into my bed and slept for a few hours. I took a picture and said, 'Oh, it's the honeymoon photo.'"

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